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# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

## France

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of France was held at the 1st meeting, on 15 January 2018. The delegation of France was headed by François Croquette, the Ambassador for Human Rights, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. At its 10th meeting, held on 19 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on France.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of France: Brazil, Kenya and Kyrgyzstan.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of France:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/FRA/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/FRA/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/FRA/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to France through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of France recalled that respect for human rights was a core value of the French Republic. France had continually advocated for the creation of the universal periodic review mechanism. Since the previous review of France in 2013, great efforts had been made to enhance the protection of fundamental rights.

6. France had endeavoured to foster greater respect for the rights of women, particularly in the area of violence against women, [through such initiatives as the development of the Plan to Combat Violence 2017–2019 and the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention)]. It had also made efforts to promote gender equality in the workplace through such initiatives as the creation of the High Council for Gender Equality and the adoption of the law of 4 August 2014 on genuine equality between men and women.

7. Combating discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity was also a priority, as evidenced by the legalization of same-sex marriage and the development of the 2017–2020 plan for putting an end to hatred and discrimination directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

8. France had given new impetus to its efforts to combat racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, which had been declared the national priority issue for 2015. In all, 40 concrete measures had been taken within the framework of the second National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism, which covered the period from 2015 to 2017. France had pursued a proactive policy on fighting crime and had adopted specific pieces of legislation to combat online hate speech. Police officers, gendarmes, judges and senior registrars were provided with regular training on the subject.

9. France had stepped up its efforts to put an end to the use of racial profiling, which ran counter to the Republican principle of equality and was banned under the Code of Ethics governing the National Police and the Gendarmerie. An effective remedy was available to individuals who considered that they had been subjected to racial profiling. The Court of Cassation had recalled that identity checks carried out based on physical characteristics associated with actual or presumed ethnic origin were discriminatory, and the use of that practice would constitute serious misconduct on the part of the State.

10. France had stepped up its efforts to combat discrimination in the sphere of education. The topic was a key element in the new syllabuses for ethics and civic education courses. France was determined to mitigate the impact of social and economic inequalities on academic success by implementing social diversity policies in approximately 40 districts and priority education policies in the most challenging neighbourhoods. Tackling discrimination in the workplace remained a priority for the authorities.

11. France had also made efforts to promote solidarity. The multi-year poverty reduction and social inclusion plan for 2013 had made it possible to integrate the needs of the most vulnerable members of the population into the design of policies on access to employment, health care, education, housing and support for families. The rise in poverty rates in France had been halted, and particular progress had been made in the area of emergency accommodation, with 30,000 additional places created since 2012. With regard to the issue posed by unauthorized camps and slum clearance or reclamation, France had made efforts to optimize effective access to housing, health care, employment and schooling: close to 9,000 people had secured housing or temporary accommodations, more than 1,700 people had found employment and almost 5,800 children had been enrolled in school between 2012 and 2016. The Planning Act, which was designed to achieve genuine equality for overseas collectivities, had facilitated the adjustment of legislation to take account of the specific needs existing in those locations.

12. In 2017, France had passed legislation on the duty of care held by parent and subcontracting companies in an effort to ensure that transnational enterprises are held accountable for their actions. France had adopted a national action plan for the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in April 2017 and ratified the Protocol to the International Labour Organization Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), on 7 June 2016.

13. France was working to cope with the global phenomenon of large-scale population shifts. Two major pieces of legislation had been passed since 2013. The Asylum Reform Act had established the independence of the French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, strengthened the rights of asylum seekers, improved efficiency and reduced processing times. The Act on the Rights of Foreigners in France had strengthened the right to residence, buttressed judicial authority to exercise oversight of placement in custody and established the principle of prioritizing alternatives to detention. The Government was committed to further improving reception conditions for asylum seekers. The number of places in accommodations for asylum seekers and refugees had doubled since 2013 and was continuing to rise. The time frame for processing asylum requests needed to be shortened and the integration of refugees needed to be improved. Lastly, France had established a mechanism for the protection of unaccompanied minors present in its territory, irrespective of their nationality or legal status.

14. France was working to block illegal immigration channels and to stop human trafficking networks from exploiting people for the purposes of prostitution, forced begging or criminal activity and to put an end to degrading forms of work. Since 2013, France had strengthened its policy for combating human trafficking and established its first national action plan in that regard.

15. In order to address the problem of prison overcrowding, France had modified its prison policies since 2013 to promote the use of alternatives to imprisonment and the adjustment of sentences. A construction programme had been announced that would lead to the creation of 15,000 additional prison places and the renovation of existing facilities.

16. France had a number of suitable institutions and procedures in place to uphold the right to an effective remedy for victims of police violence. Officers suspected of excessive use of force were subject to administrative and judicial investigations.

17. The French authorities continued to display steadfast determination in dealing with the challenges posed by terrorism. The attacks of 13 November 2015 had led the authorities to impose a state of emergency that had then been extended on several occasions in response to the continued threat of terrorism. Although France had invoked the temporary derogation clauses contained in the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, it had not in any way abandoned the rule of law. The state of emergency could not remain in place indefinitely, and the new Government had decided to lift it on 1 November 2017 with the aim of building an effective framework for protecting and upholding basic rights. A law had been passed to strengthen internal security and combat terrorism for that same purpose.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 115 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Georgia acknowledged progress achieved in combating discrimination and ensuring the rights of women and children.

20. Germany welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

21. Ghana commended the establishment of the High Council for Equality between Women and Men and of the High Council for Family, Childhood and the Elderly.

22. Greece applauded steps to combat racism, anti-Semitism and violence against children.

23. Guyana recognized the long history of France and its commitment to human rights.

24. Haiti welcomed the leadership of France on environmental protection, and a law to prevent human rights violations in supply chains.

25. Honduras praised the establishment of the High Council for Equality between Women and Men and of the Office of the Ombudsman.

26. Hungary welcomed the growing accessibility of education and health care, expressing concern about discrimination against persons with disabilities.

27. Iceland commended France for promoting the rights of women, children and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

28. India recognized efforts to combat gender discrimination and to achieve gender parity.

29. Indonesia made recommendations.

30. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.

31. Iraq welcomed steps to reduce poverty and marginalization, encouraging France to improve respect for freedom of religion.

32. Ireland praised measures to combat racism, anti-Semitism and violence against women.

33. Israel commended the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism.

34. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the establishment of the National Child Protection Council.

35. Japan applauded efforts to combat violence against women and discrimination against Roma.

36. Kazakhstan acknowledged the ratification of international instruments and the adoption of national action plans.

37. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted efforts to achieve gender equality and to combat gender violence.

38. Lebanon commended the commitment to promoting citizens' and residents' human rights.

39. Libya acknowledged the ratification of international instruments, noting that further efforts were required to combat Islamophobia.

40. Liechtenstein welcomed the prohibition of corporal punishment, noting that it was not banned in all settings.

41. Madagascar commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, regretting that discrimination persisted.

42. Malaysia praised efforts to prevent discrimination, and to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

43. Maldives was encouraged by legislative and constitutional measures to ensure gender parity in political and public life.

44. Mali acknowledged the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and praised the leadership of France during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Paris.

45. Mauritania noted steps to manage migration and fight racial discrimination.

46. Mongolia expressed concern about racial discrimination, and enquired about the right to decent housing for persons with insufficient means.

47. Montenegro commended the adoption of Act No. 2013-404 on marriage for all and of the plan against anti-LGBT hatred and discrimination (2017–2020).

48. Mozambique made recommendations.

49. Myanmar commended the ratification of numerous human rights treaties and efforts to combat terrorism.

50. Namibia applauded France for declaring the fight against racism and anti-Semitism to be a national priority.

51. Nepal praised efforts to ensure gender parity, encouraging France to enhance its official development assistance.

52. The Netherlands commended efforts to achieve gender equality in the workplace, and to improve prison conditions.

53. Norway made recommendations.

54. Pakistan appreciated efforts to combat racism, while expressing regret that religious and racial prejudice remained prevalent.

55. France was committed to fighting terrorism while upholding the rule of law and fundamental freedoms. The measures provided for by the internal security and antiterrorism law of 30 October 2017 were targeted, proportionate and aimed solely at preventing and combating terrorism. Those measures were accompanied by a large number of safeguards and were subject to wide-ranging parliamentary and judicial oversight.

56. The French delegation had explained that the authorities were preparing a new action plan to tackle all forms of human trafficking. The new plan, which was based on the previous one, would have a particular focus on minors.

57. The French delegation had noted that unaccompanied minors were provided with accommodation without any conditions attached and benefited from all the social assistance services and rights accorded to children. When the "Jungle" camp in Calais had been dismantled, the Government had set up a special emergency mechanism for providing accommodation to individuals who declared themselves to be unaccompanied minors.

58. With regard to the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, the Government was giving the situation in Calais its full attention. The clearing of the Calais camp had put an end to a situation that could not be allowed to continue for reasons of security and the need to uphold human dignity. France intended to develop a balanced policy on asylum and the integration of refugees that would ensure the effective application of the law and favour the integration of persons who had been placed under the protection of France. It was continuing its efforts to improve the various mechanisms for helping foreign nationals to move on from emergency accommodation and find suitable housing.

59. France was committed to tackling racism and anti-Semitism. The next national plan on the issue would be launched by the Prime Minister in March. The plan would be an ambitious one and was currently the focus of a consultation process involving non-governmental organizations and ministries. France was committed to increasing its efforts to combat all forms of hatred expressed on social media.

60. Panama noted steps to ratify international instruments and to combat discrimination.

61. Paraguay welcomed the leadership of France during the 2015 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

62. Peru highlighted achievements concerning gender equality.

63. The Philippines welcomed efforts to combat violence against women and children.

64. Poland commended the creation of the National Child Protection Council and the interministerial plan on mobilizing against and fighting violence against children.

65. Portugal welcomed legislative measures to ensure gender parity in political and public life.

66. Qatar commended efforts to fight human trafficking and hate speech.

67. The Republic of Korea praised steps to integrate Roma and to combat forced labour.

68. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the anti-discrimination framework and achievements in ensuring gender equality.

69. The Russian Federation expressed concern about migrants' rights in the Pas-de-Calais region, and the increase in xenophobia and racism.

70. Rwanda expressed concern at the minimal steps taken to hold accountable perpetrators of genocide in Rwanda residing in France.

71. Saudi Arabia commended steps to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and to combat social marginalization.

72. Senegal welcomed measures protecting migrants' rights, and combating racism and anti-Semitism.

73. Serbia applauded the adoption of the Act on equality and citizenship, and measures to fight violence against women.

74. Sierra Leone welcomed efforts to combat racism and encouraged France to withdraw its declarations regarding the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

75. Singapore praised efforts to combat racism, anti-Semitism and gender-based violence.

76. Slovakia commended steps to prevent discrimination and to ensure children's rights and gender equality.

77. Slovenia welcomed the procedure for amending gender in civil status registration and measures against discrimination.

78. South Africa urged France to uphold the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

79. Spain congratulated France on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

80. Sri Lanka noted actions to combat racial discrimination and in ensuring gender equality.

81. The State of Palestine welcomed efforts to combat discrimination and implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

82. The Sudan expressed concerned at racist and xenophobic attacks and crimes against migrants.

83. Sweden acknowledged and encouraged work to fulfil human rights obligations.

84. Switzerland welcomed the lifting of the state of emergency, and efforts to promote trust in law enforcement officials.

85. The Syrian Arab Republic stressed the inadmissibility of forcefully acquiring the territory of other States, and the right of peoples to self-determination.

86. Thailand commended efforts to ensure corporate accountability by implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

87. Timor-Leste commended France for integrating migrant women and girls into society.

88. Togo welcomed the National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism 2015–2017.

89. Tunisia commended France for ratifying the Istanbul Convention.

90. Turkey noted that political initiatives contrary to freedom of expression had been censured by the Constitutional Council.

91. Ukraine noted efforts on gender equality, Roma integration and civil society dialogue.

92. The United Kingdom valued the cooperation of France in combating human trafficking.

93. The United States of America expressed concern at the ban on religious attire and at the low level of schooling of Roma children.

94. Uruguay noted achievements relating to gender equality.

95. Uzbekistan acknowledged the establishment of the High Council for Equality between Women and Men and of the High Council for Family, Childhood and the Elderly.

96. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela made recommendations.

97. Viet Nam welcomed measures on gender equality and on combating racism and anti-Semitism.

98. Zambia welcomed initiatives at the international level to promote women's rights, but noted insufficient progress at the national level in that regard.

99. The French delegation had stated that fighting impunity and preventing genocide were among the central objectives of French diplomacy. France had cooperated closely with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and subsequently with the residual mechanism to ensure that full information about the events in Rwanda in 1994 were brought to light in a completely impartial manner. In 2012, a specialized judicial centre had been established to provide comprehensive support to the judicial authorities investigating persons suspected of being involved in the genocide. In 1998 the French National

Assembly had established a fact-finding mission on French military operations in Rwanda. A large volume of archives had already been opened and the mission's work was ongoing.

100. France was working to ensure that allegations of sexual abuse of children by French soldiers in the Central African Republic were investigated and that if those allegations were proven, that the persons responsible were brought to justice. France placed great importance on the prevention and suppression of sexual violence and demanded exemplary conduct from its soldiers.

101. The French delegation recalled that the President of the Republic had committed to increasing public spending on development assistance to 0.55 per cent of the gross domestic product by 2022.

102. France was committed to secularism and to freedom of religion and belief. The French authorities continued to make strenuous efforts to combat anti-Muslim acts and acts of hatred. The principle of secularism applied to providers of public services rather than to users of those services. As an exception to that rule, in 2004 lawmakers had chosen to prohibit the wearing of overt religious symbols in public schools in order to preserve the neutrality of public education, maintain a calm atmosphere in the schools and help to ensure that children were not discriminated against because of their religion.

103. France was committed to strengthening its efforts to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, as had been demonstrated on the occasion of the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities to France in October 2017. Measures were being taken to ensure that persons with disabilities were better able to exercise their right to vote, to improve the schooling provided to students with disabilities, to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in transport and housing, and to do more to help such persons find employment and remain in their jobs. Steps were also being taken to monitor the use of restraints and seclusion more closely.

104. Afghanistan praised the interministerial plan of action against radicalization and terrorism.

105. Albania noted efforts to combat racial discrimination, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

106. Algeria made recommendations.

107. Andorra welcomed the recent ratification of international human rights instruments.

108. Angola welcomed progress made on civil, political and social rights, especially regarding immigration.

109. Argentina highlighted efforts to combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and to promote children's rights.

110. Armenia welcomed the commitment to counter impunity, and the High Council for Family, Childhood and the Elderly.

111. Australia welcomed laws on same-sex marriage and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, but noted the stigmatization of minority groups.

112. Austria commended France for lifting the state of emergency following the 2015 terrorist attacks.

113. Azerbaijan appreciated efforts to implement recommendations from the second review cycle.

114. Bahrain commended France for its policy on migrant children and refugee children.

115. Bangladesh welcomed efforts to combat discrimination, but expressed concern at reports of racial profiling.

116. Belarus made recommendations.

117. Belgium made recommendations.

118. Benin welcomed the ratification of Council of Europe and International Labour Organization (ILO) instruments, and the Paris Agreement.

119. Bhutan commended France for ensuring the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

120. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the commitment to combating human trafficking, and the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

121. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the national action plan to combat human trafficking.

122. Botswana welcomed the National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism.

123. Brazil congratulated France for legislating on gender equality, and for combating discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

124. Bulgaria commended the legislation against discrimination, and efforts to ensure education for all children.

125. Burkina Faso called on France to withdraw its reservations to international human rights instruments.

126. Canada welcomed the promotion of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and the recognition of children born to them.

127. The Central African Republic called upon France to pursue its efforts to improve the effectiveness of human rights.

128. Chad congratulated France on combating radicalization and terrorism, and on legislating on the rights of foreigners.

129. Chile expressed concerned at administrative difficulties facing asylum seekers in France.

130. China expressed concern at the fact that minority groups in France still faced discrimination, despite efforts to combat violence, racism and anti-Semitism.

131. The Congo welcomed the legal framework on business and human rights.

132. Costa Rica noted efforts to fight racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial discrimination.

133. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated France on its commitment to human rights institutions, and on its legislative reforms.

134. Cyprus welcomed measures to prevent discrimination, and the law on gender equality.

135. Denmark praised progress on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex rights, and the constitutional guarantee of children's interests.

136. Ecuador congratulated France for combating both impunity in business and human trafficking, and for promoting gender parity.

137. Egypt commended France for fighting racism and xenophobia, and for adopting a national action plan to combat human trafficking.

138. Estonia welcomed efforts to curb violence against women and children.

139. Finland was concerned that children and adults with disabilities faced multiple barriers in accessing education on an equal basis with others.

140. Gabon welcomed measures to ensure the rights of vulnerable groups, and to combat terrorism, racism and poverty.

141. Mexico recognized progress in combating racism and anti-Semitism.

142. Morocco welcomed measures to combat religious intolerance, hate speech and all forms of discrimination.

143. Kenya noted measures to combat terrorism, expressing its solidarity regarding that scourge.

144. In conclusion, France highlighted the quality of the discussion during the review, which served to affirm the importance of the universal periodic review, and emphasized its willingness to respond to the recommendations in a timely manner following interministerial consultations. France had sought to involve the National Consultative Commission for Human Rights in its work and was grateful for the constructive dialogue it maintained with civil society. France recalled that 2018 marked the seventieth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Paris on 10 December 1948 and that it was the responsibility of everyone to protect and uphold the rights set forth therein.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

145. **The following recommendations will be examined by France, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

145.1 **Fully accept the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Mongolia);**

145.2 **Withdraw its declarations on article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and on article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mozambique);**

145.3 **Withdraw the declaration relating to article 13 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);**

145.4 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, as recommended by various United Nations bodies (Philippines);**

145.5 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

145.6 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sudan);**

145.7 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Angola);**

145.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chad);**

145.9 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);**

145.10 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

145.11 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and ensure that unaccompanied children in the territory of France enjoy the same protection as French children (Paraguay);**

145.12 **Support the promotion of the rights of all migrant workers and their families among global and national stakeholders, and consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

145.13 **Consider the possibility of ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Azerbaijan);**

145.14 **Ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression as soon as possible, with a view to contributing to individual criminal accountability for the illegal use of force, in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations (Liechtenstein);**

145.15 **Consider ratifying the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Andorra);**

145.16 **Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and comply with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Paraguay);**

145.17 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Portugal);**

145.18 **Ratify the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.19 **Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization (Madagascar);**

145.20 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

145.21 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Togo);**

145.22 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

145.23 **Continue working to include the responsibility to protect in meetings of the Security Council in a periodic manner, favouring the participation of the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect (Spain);**

145.24 **Cease the policy of using coercive, unilateral measures against other countries, and initiate the immediate lifting of those measure, issued as a punishment by an internal government decision that exceeded the borders of France and violated the rights of citizens of those countries, in a clear violation of article 1 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and of article 1 (2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Syrian Arab Republic);**

145.25 **Increase official development assistance to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (Sierra Leone);**

145.26 **Increase its official development assistance contribution to reach 0.7 per cent of gross national income (Congo);**

145.27 **Consider increasing its official development assistance contribution to reach the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (Haiti);**

145.28 **Continue its leadership role in supporting development efforts worldwide by meeting the internationally agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (Bhutan);**

145.29 **Continue its efforts to ensure the strengthening of preventive measures in its overseas operations, while giving due consideration to human rights (Japan);**

145.30 **Continue to impose practices that are compatible with international commitments in the area of human rights (Turkey);**

145.31 **Refrain from transferring conventional weapons when these can be used to violate human rights or international humanitarian law, in line with its obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty and target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (Panama);**

145.32 **Apologize for its silence relating to the acknowledgement of colonialism as a crime against humanity and the worst form of human rights violation, as indicated by the General Assembly of the United Nations, to the peoples and countries that France colonized, causing the death and displacement of millions of people, among them many citizens of the Syrian Arab Republic, and provide financial compensation to the victims (Syrian Arab Republic);**

145.33 **Empower indigenous peoples in the areas that it occupies to exercise their right to self-determination, in compliance with the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations (Syrian Arab Republic);**

145.34 **Incorporate international human rights standards on tolerance and non-discrimination into its national education system (Azerbaijan);**

145.35 **Continue the promotion and strengthening of the instruments to combat discrimination (Georgia);**

145.36 **Continue ensuring effective State responses when dealing with xenophobia and discrimination against women and religious and racial groups (Indonesia);**

145.37 **Increase its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls belonging to certain religious or ethnic minorities, including the prevention of discrimination in the labour market (Qatar);**

145.38 **Continue with efforts to improve its legal and institutional frameworks for protection against discrimination, and foster a culture of equality, tolerance and mutual respect by ensuring the same level of protection relating to all grounds of discrimination (State of Palestine);**

145.39 **Continue to promote a culture of equality, tolerance and mutual respect to prevent and combat persistent discrimination (Timor-Leste);**

145.40 **Intensify efforts to prevent discrimination and combat all forms of its manifestations (Uzbekistan);**

145.41 **Conduct effective measures to increase public awareness, in order to enhance the culture of equality, tolerance and mutual respect (Uzbekistan);**

145.42 **Further promote social inclusion and tolerance policies between groups, particularly vis-à-vis migrants (Viet Nam);**

145.43 **Put in place a strong legislative framework to combat all forms of discriminatory practice (Madagascar);**

145.44 **Establish an institution specifically dedicated to anti-discrimination for various categories of its population, and consider collecting disaggregated data to that effect (Namibia);**

145.45 **Provide the entities in charge of implementing anti-discrimination regulations at the local, regional and national levels with human and financial resources to fulfil their mandate (Honduras);**

145.46 **Ensure sufficient long-term financial resources for programmes and initiatives under the Real Equality Overseas Act of 28 February 2017 (Haiti);**

145.47 **Promote equality and non-discrimination and preserve the cultural rights of all groups, with emphasis on religious symbols (Sudan);**

145.48 **Continue strengthening measures against discrimination, particularly to guarantee the protection and integration of children of different nationalities (Chile);**

145.49 **Continue to combat all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination and discrimination based on ethnic grounds (Italy);**

145.50 **Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the fight against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia (Senegal);**

145.51 **Adopt measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and religious intolerance (Sudan);**

145.52 **Ensure an effective State response to matters related to racism, discrimination, Islamophobia and xenophobia (Afghanistan);**

145.53 **Strengthen policies to prevent and combat violence and intolerance against migrants (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

145.54 **Take further effective measures to combat racial discrimination and xenophobia, and combat hate crimes based on racism (China);**

145.55 **Increase the efficiency of investigations of and sanctions for perpetrators of violence and discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, including Roma, non-sedentary groups, Muslims, migrants and asylum seekers, in particular when they are perpetrated by State agents (Mexico);**

145.56 **Enhance its efforts to combat racism and religious intolerance (Kenya);**

145.57 **Make sure that recently introduced reforms, including several action plans in the field of the fight against racism and anti-Semitism, will translate into widespread practice (Poland);**

145.58 **Continue and further strengthen the efforts made under the National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism 2015–2017 to fight racial discrimination and xenophobia (India);**

145.59 **Ensure that the dedicated national body completes its work on a new National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism 2018–2020, based on a thorough evaluation of its predecessor (Israel);**

145.60 **Continue to refine and implement the 40 measures in the National Action Plan to Combat Racism and Anti-Semitism 2015–2017 until a new National Action Plan is introduced (Singapore);**

145.61 **Effectively implement the 2017 Act, as well as the national plan of action on business and human rights, and ensure that obligations under the Act are duly respected by French companies operating overseas (Thailand);**

145.62 **Continue its efforts relating to training and awareness-raising against racism and discrimination (Morocco);**

145.63 **Continue efforts to establish a policy on statistics on ethnic minorities, in order to study and eliminate the phenomenon of racial discrimination (Tunisia);**

145.64 **Ensure an effective State response to anti-Muslim attacks, racism, discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia (Pakistan);**

145.65 **Intensify efforts to prevent violence and criminal acts motivated by hatred and intolerance and prosecute those responsible for such acts (Slovakia);**

145.66 **Intensify efforts aimed at preventing violence and crimes committed on the grounds of hatred or intolerance, and bring the perpetrators of those crimes to justice (Belarus);**

145.67 **Step up efforts against anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim violence and prosecute and punish perpetrators (Central Africa Republic);**

145.68 **Address police-led racism and police violence against migrants (South Africa);**

145.69 **Ensure the full implementation of measures for the prevention of violence based on race and on social and economic status (Montenegro);**

145.70 **Take effective steps to repeal discriminatory by-laws, including those prohibiting the hijab, and ensure that Muslims are not discriminated against because of their religion or ethnicity, and that education of girls and adolescents is not adversely affected (Pakistan);**

145.71 **Develop national plans to address all forms of religious discrimination (United States of America);**

145.72 **Take all necessary measures to combat all forms and manifestations of racism and to prevent discrimination in the workplace and the labour market concerning Muslim women wearing the headscarf (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

145.73 **Continue to enhance efforts to prevent acts of racism, intolerance and xenophobia against minority groups, particularly towards women and girls among its Muslim population, including by ensuring justice for victims of such acts (Malaysia);**

145.74 **Take all necessary steps to combat racial violence, especially against foreign and migrant women and children, and to ensure their rights, access to basic services and integration into the host society (Thailand);**

145.75 **In line with a recommendation from the previous universal periodic review, take the necessary measures to prevent discriminatory identity controls and to ensure that cases of proven abuse of authority are subjected to an appropriate sanction (Switzerland);**

145.76 **Make efforts to stop the stigmatizing practice of ethnic profiling by law enforcement officials and private business (Pakistan);**

145.77 **Stop the abusive, humiliating and discriminatory practices of the police against people of African or Arab origin, victims of identity checks based on discriminatory ethnic profiling (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.78 **Reinforce the national legislative framework and institutional mechanisms to combat all discriminatory practices based on racial, ethnic and religious profiling (Azerbaijan);**

145.79 **Set up efforts to curb racist and xenophobic discourse in public life and political spheres, particularly by elected representatives (Botswana);**

145.80 **Introduce further measures to address the issue of hate speech, in order to effectively combat discrimination and intolerance, and ensure that an independent mechanism for the review of relevant national action plans is put in place (Norway);**

145.81 **Continue efforts to combat all forms of racial discrimination and hate speech directed against certain groups on the basis of race or religion, in order to promote a culture of diversity and tolerance (Tunisia);**

145.82 **Intensify efforts against discrimination, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, prohibiting and punishing hate speech or any other action that could incite violent attacks for discriminatory reasons (Uruguay);**

145.83 **Take legislative, political and awareness-raising measures to effectively combat hate speech and crimes motivated by racial or religious hatred (Algeria);**

145.84 **Continue its policy of combating racism and ensuring that racist and xenophobic speech is investigated and, if necessary, prosecuted, with appropriate sanctions (Côte d'Ivoire);**

145.85 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the application of the legislative framework established to combat hate speech, particularly on social networks (Cyprus);**

145.86 **Strengthen measures against racist and xenophobic speech, including investigation and prosecution (Ecuador);**

145.87 **Continue its efforts in the area of prevention and the fight against hate speech (Morocco);**

145.88 **Enact legislation to combat incitement to racial discrimination and hate speech (Bahrain);**

145.89 **Ensure that perpetrators of hate speech and violence are held accountable (Russian Federation);**

145.90 **Ensure the official recognition of the existing national minorities in the country (Russian Federation);**

145.91 **Establish a mechanism to independently monitor and evaluate actions taken within the framework of the national plan against anti-LGBT hatred and discrimination (Spain);**

145.92 **Take steps to introduce legal protections from discrimination on the grounds of intersex status (Australia);**

145.93 **Ensure the follow-up and independent assessment of the implementation of the plan against anti-LGBT hatred and discrimination (2017–2020) (Austria);**

145.94 **Make sure it is easier for transgender people to obtain official recognition of their gender by a rapid, accessible and transparent procedure (Belgium);**

145.95 **Continue stepping up measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, with special emphasis on the elimination of hate speech and discrimination (Chile);**

145.96 **Take the necessary measures to punish hate speech, in particular on the social media, against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Argentina);**

145.97 **Ensure compensation is paid to all victims of nuclear tests in French Polynesia, in line with the observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Human Rights Committee (Panama);**

145.98 **Take all appropriate measures to comply with the obligations arising from the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and prosecute all genocide suspects living in France (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

145.99 **Declassify and make public all Rwanda genocide documents that would advance efforts to establish responsibility and victims' rights to the truth (Guyana);**

145.100 **Investigate comprehensively the role, actions and involvement of States before, during and after the Rwanda genocide (Guyana);**

145.101 **Follow up on the findings of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and, where just, prosecute identified offenders (Guyana);**

145.102 **Increase its efforts to help ensure the accountability of suspected perpetrators of the genocide in Rwanda (Israel);**

145.103 **Positively respond to the requests for mutual legal assistance by the Government of Rwanda with respect to the ongoing investigations against**

**suspected perpetrators of genocide living in France, and declassify all relevant documentation related to the genocide (Mozambique);**

145.104 **Take appropriate actions aimed at prosecuting Rwanda genocide suspects living in France, or alternatively, extradite them to the competent jurisdiction (Namibia);**

145.105 **Take active steps to either prosecute or extradite suspected genocide perpetrators residing in its territories (Rwanda);**

145.106 **Take steps to either extradite or prosecute the Rwanda genocide suspects who may still be residing in its territory (Kenya);**

145.107 **Take immediate steps to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda by prosecuting Wenceslas Munyeshyaka and Laurent Bucyibaruta, or, alternatively, ensure their immediate return to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (Rwanda);**

145.108 **Take active steps to declassify and make public all documents that contain government and military information relating to the period before, during and after the genocide (Rwanda);**

145.109 **Take active steps to investigate allegations emanating from various sources of France's role and involvement in the genocide against the Tutsi (Rwanda);**

145.110 **Amend due diligence law No. 2017-399, so as to remove the burden from victims of corporate human rights violations and put it on the companies, in order to ensure corporate accountability (Namibia);**

145.111 **Strengthen oversight for French companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation where there are heightened risks of human rights abuses (State of Palestine);**

145.112 **Continue establishing good practices in ensuring human rights obligations are met in environmental policy-making and in business enterprises (Bhutan);**

145.113 **Continue constructively participating in the framework of the process of Human Rights Council resolution 26/9, as part of the fight against corporate impunity (Ecuador);**

145.114 **Pursue actions and initiatives in the implementation of the aims of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Benin);**

145.115 **Continue its efforts to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (Gabon);**

145.116 **Ensure that the new anti-terrorism laws are applied in a proportionate manner and in a way that prioritizes fundamental human rights, such as the right to liberty and the right to a fair trial (Iceland);**

145.117 **Continue conducting its deradicalization programme, as a part of ongoing efforts to combat radicalization and to enhance the exchange of experience and cooperation with other countries (Indonesia);**

145.118 **Strengthen policies to prevent the radicalization of young people by effectively tackling the root causes of this phenomenon, one of the main ones being social exclusion (Kazakhstan);**

145.119 **Further strengthen its measures to protect peace and the security of its people from acts of terrorism (Myanmar);**

145.120 **Closely monitor and evaluate the implementation of legislative amendments to combat terrorism, in order to ensure that individual liberties and human rights are fully protected (Norway);**

145.121 **Carry out prior judicial control, in order to ensure that anti-terrorism measures are in line with international human rights law (Panama);**

145.122 **Strengthen fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism (Peru);**

145.123 **Continue to respect fundamental human rights, even as it increases security measures to counter terrorism (Philippines);**

145.124 **Ensure that counter-terrorism measures are carried out in a proportionate and non-discriminatory manner and do not lead to the stigmatization of specific sections of the population (Qatar);**

145.125 **Include measures increasing prior judicial control and transparency in anti-terrorism efforts (Republic of Korea);**

145.126 **Review the impact on human rights and fundamental freedoms of police operations carried out under the state of emergency, with a view to minimizing their negative effects (Slovenia);**

145.127 **Carry out an evaluation of its new legislative and security-related counter-terrorism instruments to prevent any possible violations of human rights (Switzerland);**

145.128 **Cease all forms of direct and indirect support for terrorist groups that are implicated in the shedding of Syrian blood (Syrian Arab Republic);**

145.129 **Ensure that counter-terrorism measures are in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ukraine);**

145.130 **Put in place mechanisms to systematically monitor the 2017 anti-terror laws and associated policies, especially with regard to their discriminatory impact on minorities and religious groups (Australia);**

145.131 **Conduct an independent and transparent assessment of the anti-terrorism policy and its impact on civil liberties and human rights, by taking into account the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (Belarus);**

145.132 **In the context of the fight against terrorism, limit the use of exceptional powers to the extent required by the situation, while respecting international human rights standards (Brazil);**

145.133 **Ensure that measures to combat terrorism do not, in their application, violate rights protected by the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Central African Republic);**

145.134 **Fight against terrorism in line with international human rights instruments (Costa Rica);**

145.135 **Guarantee respect for human rights in the execution of counter-terrorism activities, including the rights and fundamental freedoms of its citizens (Egypt);**

145.136 **Continue efforts in the fight against terrorism (Gabon);**

145.137 **Create a body to monitor the implementation of measures provided for by the law on strengthening internal security and the fight against terrorism, in particular focusing on necessity and proportionality (Mexico);**

145.138 **Investigate and monitor all cases of alleged unnecessary or excessive use of force by law enforcement authorities, and establish measures to ensure that law enforcement authorities are held to account (Australia);**

145.139 **Put in place the necessary conditions to ensure that speedy, independent and thorough investigations are carried out of complaints of ill-treatment attributed to law enforcement personnel (Austria);**

145.140 **Consider incorporating into French criminal legislation a definition of torture that includes all elements set forth in article 1 of the Convention against Torture, and consider making torture an imprescriptible offence (Ghana);**

145.141 **Continue its efforts to improve conditions of detention (Georgia);**

145.142 **Continue efforts aiming at decreasing overcrowding in prisons (Germany);**

145.143 **Consider taking urgent steps to improve conditions of detention by implementing the recommendations of the Inspector General of Places of Deprivation of Liberty (Ghana);**

145.144 **Ensure respect for prisoners' dignity and improve conditions of detention and change the paradigm in French criminal policy (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

145.145 **Continue addressing prison overcrowding, looking at existing initiatives, such as the legislative proposal on building 15,000 new cells and installing telephones in prison cells (Netherlands);**

145.146 **Continue to improve the living conditions of detained persons and inmates in its holding facilities and prisons (Republic of Korea);**

145.147 **Take measures against serious overcrowding in prisons, the terrible conditions of detention and violations of prisoners' rights (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.148 **Improve the living conditions of detainees by implementing the recommendations of the Inspector General of Places of Deprivation of Liberty, including making greater use of alternatives to imprisonment in line with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures and the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Denmark);**

145.149 **Address the issues identified in the 2017 European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment report, particularly problems linked to overcrowded prisons, which appear to require urgent measures (Norway);**

145.150 **Reduce overcrowding in French prisons and improve the conditions for the detainees, including by allocating greater resources to rehabilitation (Sweden);**

145.151 **Put an end to trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, and combat other forms of exploitation relating to trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

145.152 **Continue its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and girls (Peru);**

145.153 **Progressively develop existing capacity to effectively tackle modern forms of human exploitation in fulfilment of international treaty obligations, building resilience across the constituent lands of the French Republic (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

145.154 **Strengthen the national policy on combating human trafficking and intensify its efforts to identify human trafficking among migrants and refugees (Belarus);**

145.155 **Continue the fight against trafficking in human beings and participation in international cooperation in that regard (Bulgaria);**

145.156 **Adopt a suitable action plan to combat all forms of trafficking and exploitation of children (India);**

145.157 **Consider enlarging the scope of its national plan to comprehensively address all forms of trafficking and exploitation (Ireland);**

145.158 **Consider expanding the scope of the national plan of action against human trafficking to cover all forms of trafficking and exploitation (Hungary);**

145.159 **Redouble its efforts in the fight against human trafficking, allocating financial resources at the local, regional and national levels, including adequate provisions to guarantee the protection of victims (Honduras);**

145.160 **Continue to provide support to women and girls at risk of trafficking (Timor-Leste);**

145.161 **Take effective measures to ensure that the victims of trafficking, especially women and children, are protected and supported in an appropriate manner (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

145.162 **Make further efforts to assist the victims of human trafficking, ensure their protection and provide them with convenient legal representation (Qatar);**

145.163 **Provide children who are at risk of human trafficking and victims of human trafficking with assistance in returning to their normal life (Russian Federation);**

145.164 **Continue to strengthen the legislation relating to the Interministerial Mission for the protection of women from violence and combating trafficking in human beings (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

145.165 **Continue to protect the right to freedom of expression, which constitutes a principal value among French human values (Lebanon);**

145.166 **Take all measures to guarantee freedom of expression on the Internet, in accordance with article 11 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Haiti);**

145.167 **Take measures to ensure the freedoms of expression, of opinion and of the media, guaranteeing the right of journalists to protect their sources (Russian Federation);**

145.168 **Guarantee freedom of expression, fight against verbal attacks on journalists and ensure that they can protect their sources (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.169 **Strengthen bilingualism in France to reflect the cultural diversity of its citizenry (Lebanon);**

145.170 **Immediately investigate all instances of use of excessive force by security forces while monitoring protests and demonstrations (Zambia);**

145.171 **Effectively investigate all cases of the use of force by law enforcement bodies during demonstrations (Russian Federation);**

145.172 **Impartially investigate the excessive use of force by law enforcement agents during protests and demonstrations (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.173 **Ensure the effective examination of complaints of the excessive use of force during arrests, forced evictions and police operations to maintain public order (Belarus);**

145.174 **Bring all legislation concerning communication surveillance into line with international human rights standards (Liechtenstein);**

145.175 **Ensure that all communication surveillance requires a test of legality, proportionality and necessity (Liechtenstein);**

145.176 **Take the necessary measures to further the efforts of the authorities to register the births of children in the overseas departments and territories (Argentina);**

145.177 **Ensure the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights and ensure that its courts apply uniform standards regarding the applicability of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (South Africa);**

145.178 **Continue to strengthen and reform the social protection system to cover all persons, including those from the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups (Maldives);**

145.179 **Enhance efforts to reduce the impact of social inequalities on access to quality education for vulnerable groups (Republic of Moldova);**

145.180 **Strengthen its policies to combat poverty, including by improving effective access to housing for homeless persons or persons in very precarious housing (Kazakhstan);**

145.181 **Establish a national plan of action for housing, aimed at making accessible a sufficient number of housing units to the poorest (Portugal);**

145.182 **In relation to recent evictions of Roma, provide appropriate information and adequate notification, in addition to offering rehousing options for those evicted (Spain);**

145.183 **Take the necessary measures to tackle the questions of poor housing and administrative difficulties in accessing welfare protection (Belgium);**

145.184 **Intensify efforts and invest more resources to ensure the right to adequate housing (Viet Nam);**

145.185 **Ensure, within a reasonable time, measures to address the problem of the loss of housing of persons evicted from informal settlements, and prior consultation with the occupants, in particular regarding Roma settlements (Germany);**

145.186 **Continue to take measures to address the issues raised in reports of continued cases of removal of Roma campsites and forced evictions from them (Japan);**

145.187 **Ensure consultations with Roma concerning the issue of forced evictions, in order to provide long-term accommodation for all evicted persons (Poland);**

145.188 **Improve and simplify access to rights and procedures to obtain social security (Portugal);**

145.189 **Formulate and implement effective policies geared towards the elimination of poverty, particularly in overseas departments, regions and territories, including Reunion, French Guiana and Mayotte (Botswana);**

145.190 **Draft policies and social programmes that specifically target regions, departments and overseas departments to improve the quality of life so that it is in line with that in Europe (Costa Rica);**

145.191 **Take concrete measures to reduce the unemployment rate in the country (Bangladesh);**

145.192 **Develop mental health services that do not lead to institutionalization, overmedication and practices that do not respect the will and preferences of individuals (Portugal);**

145.193 **Allocate the necessary resources to apply complementary measures aimed at reducing the gap in educational achievement between children belonging to different socioeconomic groups (Portugal);**

145.194 **Take additional measures to guarantee a sufficient number of qualified teachers and to ensure the right to education for all children (Slovakia);**

145.195 **Strengthen education reforms with the aim of reducing the impact of children's social origin on their educational achievements (Congo);**

145.196 **Take measures to promote a real culture of equality and tolerance by evaluating the Act on public school reform, and, if needed, strengthen its educational reform with a view to reducing the effects of the social background of children on their achievement in school, and ensure the right to education of all children without discrimination (Hungary);**

145.197 **Continue with efforts to protect children from direct and indirect discrimination in education (Serbia);**

145.198 **Establish a national programme to eliminate barriers and increase access to public education for Roma children (United States of America);**

145.199 **Strengthen its educational reform, with a view to reducing the effects of the social background of children on their achievements (Timor-Leste);**

145.200 **Adopt legislative and policy measures to ensure access to quality education, in an inclusive way, for all foreign children, regardless of their immigration status (Honduras);**

145.201 **Review school textbooks that contain selective stories on historical events that are controversial (Turkey);**

145.202 **Continue with the promotion and protection of equality between women and men in all sectors of public and private life (Serbia);**

145.203 **Continue to implement measures to advance gender equality and combat discrimination against women in all spheres, including in political and economic activities (Sri Lanka);**

145.204 **Systematically mainstream gender equality into all public policies (Zambia);**

145.205 **Continue its efforts at the national, regional and international levels to promote gender equality (Cyprus);**

145.206 **Combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls belonging to racial, ethnic and religious minorities, and ensure that Muslim women wearing the hijab are not discriminated against in the labour market (Pakistan);**

145.207 **Take further measures to combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls belonging to racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities, including those living in sensitive urban areas (Iceland);**

145.208 **Reinforce the existing anti-discrimination measures and policies to combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls from racial and religious minorities (Sierra Leone);**

145.209 **Decrease gaps in employment between men and women (Iraq);**

145.210 **Improve procedures for asylum seekers (Iraq);**

145.211 **Enhance policies aimed at combating racial discrimination and xenophobia (Lebanon);**

145.212 **Continue taking appropriate measures aimed at narrowing the wage gap between men and women (Namibia);**

145.213 **Ensure that provisions related to gender equality, as provided by the legal instruments and rules, are fully implemented, particularly regarding wage gaps (Netherlands);**

145.214 **Take action to effectively address the gender pay gap and report on the results during the following review cycle (Slovenia);**

145.215 **Redouble its efforts to eliminate the gender wage gap (Sudan);**

145.216 **Continue efforts to achieve full equality in all areas, especially in the labour market (Tunisia);**

145.217 **Address the disparities in gender equality across the employment sectors (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

145.218 **Adopt measures to guarantee effective equality between men and women, addressing issues such as respect for the obligations of companies in relation to professional and wage equality (Uruguay);**

145.219 **Continue to combat all forms of discrimination against women and girls belonging to racial, ethnic, national and religious minorities, including those living in sensitive urban areas (Liechtenstein);**

145.220 **Further strengthen the implementation of gender equality policies at the municipal and regional levels (Ireland);**

145.221 **Strengthen the implementation of gender equality measures at the regional and municipal levels (Montenegro);**

145.222 **Strengthen the implementation of gender equality policies at the municipal and regional levels (Togo);**

145.223 **Strengthen the implementation of gender equality policies at the municipal and regional levels (Albania);**

145.224 **Continue its efforts to strengthen its mechanism for eliminating gender violence (Japan);**

145.225 **Continue and strengthen its efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women (Mongolia);**

145.226 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence against women (Nepal);**

145.227 **Ensure that the fifth interministerial plan to prevent and combat violence against women (2017–2019) is adequately resourced and funded to meet its objectives (Singapore);**

145.228 **Implement the recommendations of the Defender of Rights on the introduction of a clear and precise definition of sexual harassment into the draft law on equality and citizenship (Greece);**

145.229 **Continue to design and implement public policies to prevent, address, sanction and eliminate all forms of violence against women, including female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage (Paraguay);**

145.230 **Continue to implement measures aimed at enhancing equality between men and women in politics and in public life (Armenia);**

145.231 **Continue to take steps at all levels in order to enforce women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

145.232 **Consolidate efforts to reach a comprehensive policy on children's rights, as part of the protection of childhood, education and youth, and support family policy to assist families in raising children (Saudi Arabia);**

145.233 **Further strengthen preventive measures to ensure that the rights of children are respected (Slovakia);**

145.234 **Review the policy of systematic prenatal detection of Down syndrome, in line with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international instruments (Costa Rica);**

145.235 **Ensure the impartial investigation of allegations of sexual abuse of children by French military officers during Operation Sangaris (Russian Federation);**

145.236 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including in the family and in care settings (Liechtenstein);**

145.237 **Adopt legislation explicitly prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children and sanctioning perpetrators of such violence (Sweden);**

145.238 **Clearly and explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all setting, including in the home (Uruguay);**

145.239 **Expressly prohibit all corporal punishment of children in all settings (Andorra);**

145.240 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, in order to further strengthen the protection of children (Denmark);**

145.241 **Explicitly prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings, including in the home (Estonia);**

145.242 **Set in law an age below which a person cannot be deemed to consent to any sexual act (Canada);**

145.243 **Adopt effective policies to protect isolated foreign minors from child labour exploitation (Panama);**

145.244 **Establish a minimum age of criminal responsibility of above 13 years (Sierra Leone);**

145.245 **Establish a minimum age of criminal responsibility not below the age of 13, and end the treatment of children over 16 years of age as adults, including when involved in violent extremist activities (Sweden);**

145.246 **Ensure that the juvenile justice system fully complies with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ensure that children, particularly girls, are not detained together with adults and can access education and health services (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

145.247 **Continue implementing policies directed towards access to rights and social services for young people (Republic of Moldova);**

145.248 **Continue with the assistance, and the promotion and protection of the rights, of persons with disability (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

145.249 **Take the necessary steps to ensure equal treatment of persons with disabilities (Myanmar);**

145.250 **Continue to enhance access to training for persons with disabilities, and to coordinate the continuity of support services in the job search and employment phases and prevent the loss of jobs (Saudi Arabia);**

145.251 **Implement the Government's national plan to improve access to education, health care, employment and public infrastructure for persons with disabilities (United States of America);**

145.252 **Ensure the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by ensuring the full compliance of legal provisions, and give priority to repealing article L5 of the Electoral Code permitting judges to deprive persons under guardianship of their right to vote (Austria);**

145.253 **Take further steps to extend welfare services and assistance to all persons with disabilities (Bulgaria);**

145.254 **Continue efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, taking into consideration their specific needs and their capacities (Ecuador);**

145.255 **Implement a comprehensive national disability policy, together with effective action plans and budgetary measures, through close cooperation with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to achieve equality for persons with disabilities and inclusive education for all (Finland);**

145.256 **Strengthen statistical research and collection of data on the number of persons with disabilities in the country, the total rates of schooling and the quality and quantity of the services and educational support offered, and disaggregate such data by different types of disability (Finland);**

145.257 **Continue to take actions to promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among the different racial and ethnic groups, in particular the minority groups, in France (Sri Lanka);**

145.258 **Strengthen social inclusion measures in all sectors, in particular for minorities (Angola);**

145.259 **Take results-oriented measures to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, including those related to the situation of the Roma and other minorities (Azerbaijan);**

145.260 **Promote the right of representatives of regional language groups and minorities and of indigenous people in the overseas territories to use their mother tongue (Russian Federation);**

145.261 **Continue its efforts to provide adequate health and education services to migrants, refugees and minorities, including Roma (Peru);**

145.262 **Ensure equal access to basic rights, including water and sanitation, health insurance and health care, and access to emergency housing for all minorities, including Roma populations (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

145.263 **Address marginalization and discrimination against the Roma population, including ensuring their rights to adequate housing and education (South Africa);**

145.264 **End violent attacks, hate crimes and manifestations of racism against Roma and punish those responsible; and allow them access to basic rights such as water, sanitation, health care, education and housing (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.265 **Enhance efforts for the integration of Roma (Bahrain);**

145.266 **Pursue actions and initiatives relating to the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants (Benin);**

145.267 **Establish cohesive, long-term strategies to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation for migrants in Calais and in the north of France (Sierra Leone);**

145.268 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of migrant workers and combat discrimination against them, notably regarding rights related to retirement (Algeria);**

145.269 **Make it easier for immigrant populations to enter the labour force, especially those from poor neighbourhoods (Canada);**

145.270 **Continue efforts to combat terrorism (Lebanon);**

145.171 **Provide durable solutions for refugees in its territory by accelerating asylum determination procedures and providing more assistance to approved refugees (Philippines);**

145.272 **Further increase efforts aimed at protecting asylum seekers and migrants (Ukraine);**

145.273 **Take the necessary measures to ensure a proper reception for refugees and asylum seekers, in accordance with its international commitments (Algeria);**

145.274 **Implement the 2015 pledge to the Council of the European Union to accept 24,000 refugees in France (Bangladesh);**

145.275 **Take additional measures to protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Brazil);**

145.276 **Effectively protect the rights of refugees and immigrants, and promote social inclusion (China);**

145.277 **Streamline processes for processing asylum requests (Costa Rica);**

145.278 **Ensure the rights of all migrants and asylum seekers to legal assistance and necessary services, and to protection from any threats to which they may be subjected (Egypt);**

145.279 **Continue its efforts to protect rights in the context of migration and asylum (Morocco);**

145.280 **Guarantee the right of suspensive appeal for all migrants and asylum seekers held in waiting areas, and allow them legal assistance (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

145.281 **Protect the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, including access to judicial review and appeal procedures for foreign minors (Afghanistan);**

145.282 **Step up measures to improve access to the right of asylum and detection of vulnerabilities, particularly accompanied by psychological support for trauma connected with persecution and exile (Côte d'Ivoire);**

145.283 **Ensure the protection of the rights of the child, including the protection and integration of unaccompanied minors (South Africa);**

145.284 **Continue efforts to protect children, especially unaccompanied migrant children, from sexual exploitation and trafficking (Tunisia);**

145.285 **Ensure that unaccompanied migrant children in French territory have full access to asylum procedures and are not placed in transit zones (Zambia);**

145.286 **Address the reported lack of access to basic services for asylum seekers and migrants, especially unaccompanied children (Bangladesh);**

145.287 **Deploy the necessary measures to ensure that unaccompanied foreign minors in France have access to housing, education, medical services and rapid follow-up of their dossiers, making sure that minors are not denied assistance until a thorough investigation has been made of their situation, in particular of their age (Belgium);**

145.288 **Adopt the necessary measures to guarantee effective protection for unaccompanied foreign minors and to find alternative solutions to deprivation of freedom for their care (Canada);**

145.289 **Guarantee the effective promotion and protection of the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, particularly separated and unaccompanied children and adolescents (Ecuador);**

145.290 **Establish mechanisms to identify, protect and provide legal assistance to unaccompanied asylum seekers and migrant children (Mexico);**

145.291 **Ensure that the specific vulnerability of unaccompanied minors and the compliance of their living conditions with the Act of 14 March 2016 on child protection are taken into account (Germany);**

145.292 **Consider increasing resources to assist refugees, including unaccompanied children (Republic of Korea);**

145.293 **Pay special attention to unaccompanied migrant minors (Russian Federation);**

145.294 **Elaborate on specific measures aimed at taking care of unaccompanied child migrants (Senegal);**

145.295 **Strengthen policies for access to basic services for peasants and other people who work in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

145.296 **Redouble its efforts to prevent racially motivated acts of violence against Muslims (Libya);**

145.297 **Fight all forms of discrimination against women belonging to ethnic and religious minorities (Libya).**

146. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of France was headed by François CROQUETTE, Ambassadeur pour les droits de l'Homme, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères, and composed of the following members:

- S.E. Mme Elisabeth LAURIN, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse;
- M. Jean-Christophe PEAUCELLE, Conseiller aux affaires religieuses, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères;
- M. François GAVE, Représentant Permanent Adjoint de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse;
- Mme Florence CORMON-VEYSSIERE, Sous-directrice des droits de l'Homme et des affaires humanitaires, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères;
- Mme Clarisse GERARDIN, Conseillère, Mission Permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse;
- Mme Hélène PETIT, Conseillère, Mission Permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse;
- M. Pierre LE GOFF, Attaché, Mission Permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse;
- Mme Anna MAROS, Mission de coordination pour les droits de l'Homme, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères;
- M. Adelin ROYER, Direction des Nations unies et des organisations internationales, sous-direction des droits de l'Homme, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères;
- M. Pierre VINCENT, Direction des affaires juridiques, sous-direction des droits de l'Homme, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères;
- M. Adrien BRIERE, Mission Permanente de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève et des autres organisations internationales en Suisse;
- M. Frédéric POTIER, Délégué interministériel à la lutte contre le racisme, l'antisémitisme et la haine anti-LGBT;
- Mme Elisabeth MOIRON-BRAUD, Secrétaire générale de la Mission interministérielle pour la protection des femmes contre les violences et la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains;
- M. Manuel DEMOUGEOT, Directeur de cabinet, Délégation interministérielle à l'hébergement et à l'accès au logement;
- Mme Pascale LEGLISE, Cheffe du Service du conseil juridique et du contentieux, Direction des libertés publiques et des affaires juridiques, Ministère de l'Intérieur;
- M. Michel AMIEL, Adjoint au chef du service des affaires internationales et européennes, Direction générale des étrangers en France, Ministère de l'intérieur;
- Mme Elisa SIDGWICK, Consultante juridique au Bureau du droit et du contentieux européen, international et institutionnel, Ministère de l'Intérieur;
- Mme Béatrice BOSSARD, Sous-directrice de la justice pénale générale, Direction des affaires criminelles et des grâces, Ministère de la Justice;

- M. Romain PERAY, Sous-directeur des missions de la direction de l'administration pénitentiaire, Ministère de la Justice;
- Mme Muriel EGLIN, Sous-directrice des missions de protection judiciaire et d'éducation de la direction de la protection judiciaire de la jeunesse, Ministère de la Justice;
- Mme Karine GILBERG, Cheffe du bureau de l'expertise et des questions institutionnelles, Délégation des affaires européennes et internationales du Ministère de la Justice;
- Mme Christine PILTANT, Adjointe à la sous-directrice du droit international et du droit européen, Ministère des Armées;
- Mme Karen MARTINON, Conseillère parlementaire et diplomatique de la Secrétaire d'Etat chargée des Personnes Handicapées, Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé;
- Mme Nathalie NIKITENKO, Déléguée aux affaires européennes et internationales, Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé;
- M. Pascal FROUDIERE, Adjoint du chef du bureau des affaires européennes et internationales, direction générale de la cohésion sociale, Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé;
- Mme Isabelle HURDUBAE, Chargée de Mission pour les affaires multilatérales, les Philippines et l'Océanie, Ministère de la Culture;
- Mme Françoise PETREAULT, Sous-Directrice de la vie scolaire, des établissements et des actions socio-éducatives, Direction générale de l'enseignement scolaire, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale;
- M. Jean-Pierre BALCOU, Sous-directeur des affaires juridiques et institutionnelles à la Direction générale de l'Outre-mer, Ministère des Outre-Mer.

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# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Tonga

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Tonga was held at the 2nd meeting, on 15 January 2018. The delegation of Tonga was headed by the Solicitor General, Sione Sisifa. At its 10th meeting, held on 19 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Tonga.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Tonga: Angola, Slovakia and the United Arab Emirates.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Tonga:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/TON/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/TON/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/TON/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Brazil, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Tonga through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation noted that, as a small Pacific island country, Tonga suffered from the challenges of its small size, geographic isolation, natural vulnerability and fragility and its limited human and financial resource base, which had a high cost in terms of social and community services as well as economic development. Unfortunately, the process of ensuring its compatibility and compliance with international human rights treaties represented a huge demand on its limited capacity. Despite such challenges, many of the underlying human rights principles enshrined in the core human rights conventions formed the basis for many Tongan laws. In addition, Tonga remained committed to pursuing the ratification of the core human rights conventions and intended to continue its active participation in the universal periodic review process.

6. Tonga still had not made formal commitments to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, due to human and financial resource constraints. However, its legislation, in particular its Constitution, enshrined many of the articles espoused in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Tongan courts also applied many of the human rights conventions in determining court cases, such as the 2005 case of R v. Vola, which had set an important and binding precedent in preventing arbitrary application of the death penalty.

7. The principles underlying the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights had been incorporated into Tongan legislation, which included laws on gaining access to adequate health care and the rights to education, to a decent home, food and shelter, to fair wages and equal remuneration for equal value, and to take part in cultural life.

8. The 2013 Education Act had established a new compulsory school age of 4 to18 years. Furthermore, it had imposed a legal duty on parents to educate their children, and had introduced the principle of inclusive education for children with special needs and the right of all children under the age of 19 years to have access to quality education in Tonga, irrespective of the child's gender, religion, socioeconomic status, physical condition or location.

9. The Health Services Act 1991, the Medical and Dental Practice Act 2001, the Mental Health Act 2001 and the Public Health Act 2008 protected the rights of a person to have access to medical and health services in Tonga. The Ministry of Health was in the process of reviewing some of these legal provisions to ensure compatibility with international health standards.

10. In 2016, Tonga had become the 187th member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), thereby reflecting its commitment to promoting and ensuring a decent work environment and the progressive realization of international labour standards at the national level. An employment relations bill 2013 had been drafted and was in the process of full public consultation.

11. On the issue of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Tonga had announced that it was ready to ratify the Convention at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters on 12 March 2015. However, due to public protests, Tonga had had to defer the ratification process for further consultation. Through targeted and strategic consultations, Tonga continued to move towards ratification. In addition, the underlying principles of the Convention were being addressed through projects linked to the commitments of Tonga to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For Tonga, the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was an ongoing process and represented a generational change.

12. Tonga had a liberal maternity leave policy for public service employees, with three months' paid maternity leave and five working days' paternity leave. Tonga supported women's economic empowerment activities through the identification of key women's economic empowerment priorities in the National Community Development Plans, the sourcing of existing training opportunities and identification of funding as well as additional training as required. Furthermore, Tonga planned to develop an electronic registration system for community women's development groups, strengthen networks and build partnerships between stakeholder groups and donors, and help female entrepreneurs to attend regional festivals and trade fairs. Women's economic empowerment was a priority issue for Tonga. In its view, an important means for eradicating poverty was the provision of an environment that helped to ensure that women earned a decent income, were represented in both the formal and informal sectors and were given equal opportunities and education.

13. Tonga was implementing projects that addressed the issue of domestic violence, which had been identified as a major impediment to gender equality.

14. In May 2017, Tonga had conducted a holistic justice sector review and public consultation, which had led to the identification of projects to give women and children and vulnerable members of society and persons with disabilities better access to justice.

15. In December 2016, Tonga had set up a criminal policy Cabinet subcommittee to examine, analyse and address the issues of violence against vulnerable members of society, such as women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

16. In Tonga, women and men generally received equal pay for equal employment levels, for instance within the public service. The Tongan Armed Forces had recently reviewed their employment policies to ensure gender equality.

17. Tonga had no discriminatory legislation in relation to the participation of women in politics. However, women were less successful in securing membership in the Legislative Assembly. For example, in 2014, 16 of the 106 candidates in the general elections had been women. In the 2017 elections, only 15 of the 86 candidates had been women. One of the identified weak areas related to their techniques in campaigning and lobbying for votes.

Accordingly, joint programmes were being run to help women to strengthen their campaigning techniques. In 2014, the Legislative Assembly had held the first ever Practice Parliament for Women, a United Nations Development Programme-backed event designed to help women to become effective political leaders. In the 2017 general elections, the 26-member Legislative Assembly had welcomed two successful female candidates to its ranks.

18. Tonga had a dedicated division for all matters relating to women's development and empowerment issues under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Women's Division was instrumental in working together with all relevant ministries and civil society to oversee and report on the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act 2013. Tonga was committed to gender equality and women's empowerment through the implementation of the Act and the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development. New initiatives in 2017 had included gender mainstreaming activities in key ministries.

19. In September 2015, the third and final report of Tonga on the Millennium Development Goals had been submitted to the United Nations,[1] showing progress in eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education.

20. In 2015, Tonga had introduced the Tonga Strategic Development Framework 2015–2025. One of the Framework's seven national outcomes was for human development to be more inclusive, sustainable and empowering, with an emphasis on gender equality.

21. In July 2017, Tonga had been represented at a workshop and consultation meeting on gender training needs and design and gender profile information entitled "Promoting Evidence-Based Policymaking for Gender Equality", organized by the Asian Development Bank. The workshop was aimed at developing national capacity for gender mainstreaming in health, fostering discussions on the role of statistics and gender indicators in decision-making, and identifying priorities for training and capacity-building.

22. Tongan women were increasingly represented in managerial and higher administrative positions, both within the Government and the private sector. Since 2013, 13 women had held or were holding senior positions in Government.

23. Tongan women also held diplomatic positions overseas. To date, the High Commissioner of Tonga to Australia, the Ambassador of Tonga to Japan, the Tonga Consul General in San Francisco, United States of America, and the Tongan Honorary Consuls for France, the Netherlands and Sweden were women.

24. Women held positions as directors, deputies or members on various public enterprise boards, including the Tonga Communications Corporation, the Tonga Broadcasting Commission, the Tonga Water Board, Tonga Post and Fast Print Limited, Tonga Airports Limited, Tonga Market Limited and the Ports Authority.

25. Tongan women also featured prominently in the private sector as successful owners and managers of small to medium businesses, including retail stores, cafés and restaurants, hotels, resorts and tourist facilities, catering services, handicraft and local produce market stalls, preschools and day-care child services.

26. Tongan women also held leadership roles in regional and international organizations. For instance, in May 2017, a Tongan woman had been appointed to the position of High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the first Tongan to hold such a senior position in the United Nations.

27. In May 2014, Tonga had launched its Revised National Policy on Gender and Development as a result of a joint partnership between the Government, the private sector, civil society, the community and development partners.

28. In June 2017, Tonga had established a committee comprising relevant ministries, departments and agencies to consider the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and to review relevant

[1] Available at www.finance.gov.to/sites/default/files/Tonga%203rd%20MDG%20Report%20FINAL%20COPY%20%28003%29.pdf.

legislation. Tonga had actively participated in relevant workshops in the region, such as the Convention against Torture Initiative regional workshop held in Fiji in October 2016, and a round-table meeting with the Initiative and OHCHR, in October 2017.

29. Although Tonga had legal provisions allowing whipping as a form of sanction, whipping was no longer considered an option for sentencing. In that regard, Tonga referred to the 2010 case of *Fangupo v. R.*

30. In Tonga, the Education (Schools and General Provisions) Regulations 2002 prohibited teachers from inflicting corporal punishment on any student. Furthermore, the Family Protection Act 2013 protected women and children from abuse and domestic violence.

31. Tonga did not tolerate police brutality. Since the enactment of the Tonga Police Act 2010, there had been a decrease in the rate of civil cases against the Tongan Police, mainly due to the internal disciplinary processes and procedures within the Act. The Ombudsman's Office also provided an effective external mechanism within the political framework to deal with complaints against the police, which included police brutality.

32. On 6 June 2014, the National Policy on Disability and Inclusive Development 2014–2018 and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had been approved. On 20 January 2015, Tonga had established the Social Protection and Disability Division under its Ministry of Internal Affairs as a focal point for persons with disabilities. In 2016, the Division had worked together with the Tongan Attorney General's Office to review legislation to expedite ratification of the Convention. In 2017, the Division had conducted public consultations to raise awareness prior to the ratification. In June 2017, the Division had received technical assistance from the Pacific Islands Forums Secretariat and Pacific Office of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to examine the ratification and legislative implementation of the Convention. In addition, the Attorney General's Office had used its 2016 Law Week as a public awareness programme to highlight the rights of persons with disabilities. Legal provisions were already in place to enable persons with disabilities to enjoy the same political and social rights as all citizens.

33. Tonga continued to review and revise its Constitution to ensure that it enshrined recognized international principles of democracy and good governance. The Government's constitutional review projects had been technically and financially assisted by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

34. In 2016, the Legislative Assembly had established a formal procedure for no-confidence votes to avoid delaying substantive work in processing legislation.

35. In November 2014, Tonga had held its second national election under the electoral system introduced in 2010. On 29 December 2014, Samuela 'Akilisi Pohiva had been appointed by the King of Tonga as the second elected Prime Minister of Tonga under the 2010 political reforms. He had also become the first commoner to be democratically elected by a predominantly elected Parliament. In a further general election, held on 16 November 2017, the Democratic Party of the Friendly Islands (*Paati Temokalati 'o e 'Otumotu Anga'ofa*), led by Mr. Pohiva, had been re-elected, as a result of which Mr. Pohiva had been re-elected as the third Prime Minister under the framework of the electoral changes introduced in 2010.

36. Tonga acknowledged the right of its "*leiti*" community to raise public awareness, educate and organize programmes and projects to highlight the concerns and issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning persons. However, the historical cultural and religious beliefs of Tonga, although tolerant, did not recognize the legal status of same-sex relationships. The Tonga Leitis Association had been established in 1992 with a focus on improving the rights and celebrating the contribution of *leitis* in Tonga and on responding to the HIV pandemic. In 2016, it had launched a strategic plan for the period 2016–2020, with a vision for Tonga to respect and uphold the rights of persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. One of the main goals of the plan was to reduce stigma and discrimination against *leitis* and people living with HIV. It also aimed to educate and advocate on international human rights law, recent international

developments and agreed principles, such as the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

37. The number of child marriages had dropped since the launch in May 2017 of a campaign by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Talitha Project entitled "Let girls be girls". An analysis of the figures from May to December 2016 and the same period in 2017 indicated that the number of young people under 18 years of age getting married had fallen by almost 50 per cent thanks to public awareness campaigns. One challenge that Tonga faced in consultations relating to legislative changes in that area had to do with the country's fundamental Christian and cultural beliefs.

38. The freedom of information policy approved in 2012 had strengthened the freedom of speech, expression and the press guaranteed in clause 7 of the Constitution. A freedom of information unit had been established within the Ministry of Information and Communication to coordinate all information disclosure and dissemination within the public service, providing policy advice and guidelines for compliance with and the implementation of the policy.

39. In support of the freedom of information policy, systems and structures had been established, such as the freedom of information unit and the Cabinet steering committee, to manage a phased process of implementation. One challenge that Tonga faced in the development of a freedom of information bill was the Government's lack of administrative capacity to store and maintain the large number of physical records, both current and historical in each Government ministry. That issue and the policy were being addressed by Government ministries and organizations at the same time to ensure that, when the law came into effect, the Government would be able to provide the relevant documents.

40. Accordingly, the Government had developed administrative and archival projects to ensure safe storage and preservation of records. Two examples were the project within the Ministry of Justice to digitize all civil registry information, with the assistance of the Commonwealth Secretariat within the framework of its project to publish historical birth records that were over 100 years old. Other ministries continued to provide access to information via the Internet and the development of websites. For example, the Attorney General's Office ran a comprehensive website that published all of the laws of Tonga, as well as gazettes and judgments of the courts. The Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications ran a social media page on Facebook that provided information on government initiatives and workshops. Furthermore, Tonga was planning to develop e-Government with the assistance of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

41. Tonga continued to provide free primary education for Tongan children attending public primary schools. Efforts were being made to strengthen human rights education, train public officials and involve civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights through international and regional cooperation.

42. Tonga did not have the necessary resources to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

43. For example, in a 2016 amendment to the Commissioner for Public Relations Act 2001, the Commissioner of Public Relations had been renamed the Ombudsman with a view to ensuring that Tonga was in line with relevant international practice. The Ombudsman's Office was working to boost public awareness by conducting community outreach programmes and running television broadcasts throughout the country, and those efforts had led to an increase in the number of complaints received and successfully addressed by the Office. One advantage of its small community was the fact that access to Tongan government ministers, members of the Legislative Assembly and the constitutional right to petition the King on human rights abuse were still feasible, easily accessible options for the Tongan people.

44. In 2016, Tonga had introduced a cash assistance initiative for persons with disabilities to promote social and economic development for the elimination of poverty. In addition, Tongan NGOs had set up programmes through the Tonga Youth Employment and

Entrepreneurship initiative to encourage youth employment and support. Moreover, many human rights were enshrined in the country's current institutional frameworks and projects. For instance, the Climate Finance and Risk Governance Assessment featured a gender and social inclusion analysis.

45. The country's plan for implementing the universal periodic review was as follows: the recommendations made in the review were reported to the Cabinet, and the respective ministries responsible for implementation were mandated to examine the feasibility of incorporating them into their corporate and annual management plans. Progress on the whole of the ministries' mandate, including the relevant recommendation or recommendations, was monitored quarterly and biannually, resulting in an annual report presented and approved by the Legislative Assembly prior to publication. Tonga was committed to implementing the recommendations and the Sustainable Development Goals in its national plan, the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2015–2025. The theme of the Framework, namely, "A more progressive Tonga: Enhancing our inheritance", presented the country's new development framework and mainstreamed the recommendations and the goals set out under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into national outcomes. For those recommendations that had been approved by the Government but not yet incorporated, a procedure existed to adapt the Tonga Strategic Development Framework. A robust and vigorous process of monitoring and evaluation took place quarterly, biannually and annually.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

46. During the interactive dialogue, 45 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

47. Brazil congratulated Tonga on the entry into force of the Family Protection Act, which recognized domestic violence as a legal offence, and encouraged Tonga to ensure that the Act was fully implemented. It invited Tonga to continue efforts towards curbing violence against women. It also invited Tonga to explore synergies in mainstreaming women's rights and empowerment while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It recognized the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office, an important step towards the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law.

48. Canada commended Tonga on implementing measures to address discrimination and violence against women and girls, such as the launch of a centre providing free legal advice and support to survivors of domestic violence. While commending Tonga on the holding of fair and peaceful national elections in November 2017, and noting the increased number of female parliamentarians, Canada invited Tonga to consider measures to further foster women's participation in the forthcoming national election.

49. Chile urged Tonga to persevere in its efforts towards the ratification of the main human rights international instruments, while highlighting measures to eradicate gender and domestic violence and on the empowerment of women. Nonetheless, the representation of women in political decision-making posts remained low.

50. China welcomed the progress made in Tonga in developing the country's economy to meet people's needs, and in investing in education, including universal primary education. It highlighted the commitment of Tonga to gender equality, protecting women's rights and fighting violence against women and children.

51. Côte d'Ivoire noted the persistent major challenges, particularly those regarding gender equality, the rights of women, for example to gain access to property ownership, the rights of children, prohibiting child marriages, and the rights of persons with disabilities. It noted that Tonga had not yet ratified the main international human rights instruments.

52. Cuba highlighted the measures adopted to implement the recommendations Tonga had accepted during the second review cycle. Cuba underscored the commitments made by Tonga to increasing the participation of women in public life and to strengthening human rights education and training for public officials.

53. Denmark noted that, while Tonga had accepted recommendations from the previous review cycle to ratify the Convention against Torture, it had yet to do so. It also stated that, by ratifying the Convention, Tonga would join with more than 160 States parties in delivering an unequivocal message that torture could never be tolerated.

54. France encouraged Tonga to reinforce the progress achieved on human rights since its previous universal periodic review.

55. Georgia welcomed the revision of the National Policy on Gender and Development, while encouraging Tonga to strengthen its policies to further promote women's rights and prevent domestic violence. It also welcomed the establishment of a committee to consider the ratification of the Convention against Torture and to review relevant legislation.

56. Germany commended Tonga on its recent accession to the International Labour Organization. It expressed concern about the human rights situation of women and other vulnerable groups, including people with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

57. Ghana underscored the establishment of a committee to consider the ratification of the Convention against Torture and to review relevant legislation. It expressed concern that Tonga had yet to accede to a significant number of core international human rights treaties.

58. Honduras welcomed the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office and the adoption of a national policy on gender and development. It encouraged Tonga to redouble its efforts in that regard by strengthening the rule of law framework through the incorporation of the main human rights instruments.

59. Iceland welcomed the positive steps taken by Tonga since its second universal periodic review. It noted that, despite the recommendations Tonga had accepted to ratify core international human rights treaties, no concrete progress had been made thus far.

60. India commended Tonga on the adoption of its Strategic Development Framework 2015–2025 to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education. It underscored the Family Protection Act 2013 as a welcome step aimed at providing greater protection for victims of domestic violence.

61. Indonesia welcomed the establishment of a committee to consider ratifying the Convention against Torture. It also welcomed the enactment in 2016 of an amendment to the Commissioner for Public Relations Act (2001) in order to convert it into an Ombudsman's Office.

62. Ireland welcomed the issuance of a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council special procedures. It noted that, since the second universal periodic review, Tonga had not become a party to any additional core human rights conventions. It also welcomed the enactment of the Family Protection Act (2013), which criminalized domestic violence against women and children.

63. Italy commended Tonga on the adoption of the Family Protection Act (2013), criminalizing domestic violence against women and children. It also appreciated the launch of the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development, as well as the measures adopted in favour of persons with disabilities.

64. Malaysia welcomed the commitment by Tonga to facilitating access to education, including through the adoption of the Education Act 2013, which made education compulsory between the ages of 4 and 18 years. It noted efforts to promote gender equality and build greater gender awareness, including through the Strategic Development Framework 2015–2025.

65. Maldives welcomed the adoption of the Family Protection Act (2013). It was encouraged by the progress made in ensuring universal and inclusive primary education with the adoption of the Education Act (2013) and the efforts by Tonga to improve access to primary schooling for children, especially from low-income households.

66. Mexico recognized the implementation of the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development to promote gender equality. It also welcomed the implementation of the

Integrated National Strategic Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health 2014–2018. It commended Tonga on the increase in the literacy rate to close to 99 per cent.

67. Montenegro welcomed the positive steps taken in the field of the legislative framework for social and child protection and education, while encouraging Tonga to improve the effective implementation of those steps. It noted the very low level of ratification of the key international human rights instruments. It also encouraged Tonga to improve its cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

68. Morocco welcomed the revised national policy on gender equality, the law on the protection of the family and the criminalization of marital rape. It welcomed the commitment by Tonga to the integration of persons with disabilities, efforts to ensure access to justice for all and the fight against torture, racial discrimination, corruption, child pornography and cyberharassment of children.

69. Mozambique praised Tonga for the adoption of the Criminal Offences Act, which criminalized marital rape, and for the official launch of Orange Day and the programme to mark White Ribbon Day, both of which were initiatives to end violence against women. It also welcomed the launch of the National Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategic Plan (2014–2018) that aimed to attain a high standard of health and quality of living through improved sexual reproductive health for all people.

70. The Netherlands welcomed efforts to raise awareness about the issue of child marriage. It remained concerned about the position of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Tonga, while urging the Government to take further measures in that regard.

71. New Zealand commended Tonga on progress to increase participation by women in Parliament and in government leadership positions. It also commended Tonga for passing the Family Protection Act (2013) and for signing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

72. Panama commended Tonga on the progress made in the field of education, as well as the significant steps taken to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape. It encouraged Tonga to ratify the fundamental ILO conventions. It also noted that more remained to be done in terms of gender and childhood.

73. The Philippines noted that elections had passed relatively smoothly, despite the political disruption caused after the dissolution of Parliament. It acknowledged the Government's efforts to provide adequate laws and establish administrative mechanisms to protect women and girls, particularly the criminalization of rape and domestic violence. Furthermore, the Philippines proposed that Tonga prioritize the ratification of core international human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

74. Portugal appreciated the presentation of the comprehensive national universal periodic review report.

75. The Republic of Korea commended Tonga on the fact that the Constitution had been amended to provide for better protection of human rights. It welcomed the efforts made to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, such as those relating to gender equality and reduced inequalities.

76. Sierra Leone commended Tonga on adapting its national legislation in order to meet its human rights commitments. It noted the various measures the Government had taken since the previous review, including the New Education Act 2013 and the National Policy on Disability and Inclusive Development 2014–2018. It encouraged Tonga to continue to engage in national consultations in order to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

77. Singapore commended Tonga for its promotion and protection of women's rights, including the adoption of the Family Protection Act 2013 to curb domestic violence and the expansion of women's participation in social, economic, political life, as well as the steps taken towards the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It also welcomed the launching of the National Policy on

Disability and Inclusive Development 2014–2018 and the launch of the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development. It remained committed to supporting the development of Tonga through the technical cooperation package for small island developing States and the sustainable development package, under the Singapore Cooperation Programme.

78. Slovenia noted with appreciation some positive measures taken by the Government with regard to the participation of women in political and public life. It encouraged Tonga to continue such efforts, especially by removing loopholes in national legislation and encouraging the participation of women in economy and politics. It noted concerns about the protection of children in criminal proceedings and the use of corporal punishment as a sentence by the courts for all persons. It also expressed concern about reports that corporal punishment remained widespread in the country, including in primary and secondary school settings.

79. Thailand noted as positive the work by Tonga to promote women's participation in political life and decision-making. It welcomed the progress made to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education and the ongoing implementation of the revised National Policy on Gender and Development. It also noted as positive the increase in the number of female prison officers and human rights training for prison officers.

80. Timor-Leste welcomed the adoption of a New Education Act that provided for compulsory education between the ages of 4 and 18 years, and established the principle of inclusive education for children with special needs. It expressed concern about the cases of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity while commending Tonga for hosting in May 2015 a Pacific human rights conference on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning persons.

81. Turkey welcomed the efforts of Tonga to introduce constitutional reforms aimed at widening the country's democratic space, as well as the positive steps taken in recent years to consolidate the rule of law and democracy. Turkey noted that Tonga had the highest government spending on education in the Pacific, highlighting that the expansion of free basic education in Tonga enabled access to primary schooling for children from all segments of society. Turkey encouraged Tonga to amend the Land Act, particularly its provision forbidding women from inheriting land.

82. Ukraine welcomed the endorsement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the adoption of the Family Protection Act (2013) aimed at combating domestic violence, and the progress made towards achieving universal primary education of children. It reiterated the United Nations country team's recommendation that Tonga assess periodically the impact of climate change and natural disasters, particularly in relation to the enjoyment of human rights by the poor and lower-income segments of the population.

83. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland encouraged Tonga to ratify the core human rights conventions and to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles. It welcomed the efforts by Tonga to promote female candidates in national elections. However, it noted that female participation in Tongan politics remained low while encouraging Tonga to further promote the inclusion of women in politics. It expressed concern that Tongan legislation continued to criminalize consensual same-sex conduct, while noting that there had been no recent prosecutions under the legislation. It urged Tonga to repeal all such provisions and ensure anti-discrimination laws also covered sexual orientation. It also welcomed the country's membership of ILO in 2016 while encouraging Tonga to ratify the key ILO conventions.

84. The United States of America welcomed the recent successful national elections and the announcement by Tonga that it would open a free legal centre for women who were survivors of sexual or domestic violence. It encouraged Tonga to decriminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status and conduct, increase free legal aid and implement policies to increase women's participation at all levels of government.

85. Uruguay welcomed efforts by Tonga to combat trafficking in persons, and its consideration of acceding to various international human rights instruments. While noting that the Constitution of Tonga prohibited discrimination on the basis of social class,

religion and race, but did not define or recognize discrimination based on gender or other grounds. Uruguay expressed the hope that gender and sexual orientation could be included as prohibited grounds of discrimination.

86. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the important legislative initiatives, including the new Education Act (2013), which set the age of compulsory schooling between 4 and 18 years, and imposed on parents the obligation to school their children. It welcomed the approval of the National Policy on Disability and Inclusive Development 2014–2018. It also welcomed the fact that Tonga had become a Member State of ILO as of February 2016, a sign of its commitment to decent employment opportunities, the increase of social protection and the strengthening of dialogue on issues related to the right to work.

87. Algeria welcomed the development of the national development policy (2014–2018) and the strategic development framework (2015–2025). It noted the important legislative measures taken by Tonga to harmonize national law with international human rights norms. It also noted with satisfaction the efforts and results achieved by Tonga in the fields of education, health and poverty reduction.

88. Angola welcomed the successful 2014 elections in Tonga and its commitment to human rights. While highlighting the importance of the creation of a human rights institution to promote, protect, coordinate and oversee human rights issues, as well as to assist in the implementation of the recommendations made during the review, Angola appealed to Tonga to work towards that end. It also encouraged Tonga to reinforce legal mechanisms for the protection of the child.

89. Australia acknowledged the efforts by Tonga to improve human rights, including through the enactment of the Family Protection Act 2013, the introduction of a national disability inclusiveness policy, the improvement of access to health services for people with disabilities, the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office, and the progress on work towards a landmark employment relations bill. It also commended Tonga on the well-run, peaceful elections held in November 2017. While noting the country's continuing efforts to promote gender equality, Australia expressed concern about the high rates of domestic violence. It also noted that Tonga had not carried out the death penalty for some time.

90. Azerbaijan was encouraged by the continuing constitutional and political reforms in Tonga, the fact that Tonga was on a path towards stronger democracy marked by progress in a number of areas, including the establishment of the Ombudsman's Office, and the 2014 general elections, which had been deemed free and fair.

91. Argentina congratulated Tonga for the progress made in the field of universal primary education, particularly the adoption of the new Education Act 2013, which set the age of compulsory schooling at 4 to 18 years. It also noted the launching of the "Let girls be girls" campaign.

92. Tonga emphasized that it remained committed to improving the level of implementation of its human rights obligations. It called upon Member States to understand and appreciate the unique circumstances that it faced when advancing human rights protection, such as limited resources, strong cultural values, predominant Christian faith and the growth of liberal ideologies. Furthermore, Tonga called upon Member States to assist and support it in its journey to advance human rights, attaching special priority to those human rights that promoted the rights of all vulnerable members of its society.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

93. **The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue/listed below have been examined by Tonga and enjoy the support of Tonga:**

> 93.1 **Consider transforming existing ad hoc structures into a national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with elements arising from good practices identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

93.2 **Continue to work on human rights and sustainable development initiatives and, where applicable, adopt appropriate follow-up mechanisms (Thailand);**

93.3 **Submit the initial report on implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Montenegro);**

93.4 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

93.5 **Improve its record on reporting to the United Nations treaty bodies, including by submitting its overdue reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Azerbaijan);**

93.6 **Elaborate and submit the reports required by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Côte d'Ivoire);**

93.7 **Accept the request for a visit of the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice (Panama);**

93.8 **In order to increase its capacity-building in the sphere of human rights, cooperate with the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council, bearing in mind that the Fund is mandated to support targeted training courses and capacity-building activities on the international human rights system and international human rights law as well as induction training sessions for government officials of the least developed countries and small island developing States to provide them with information on the multilateral human rights system (Ukraine);**

93.9 **Launch the review of the legislative instruments referred to in paragraph 138 of the national report (Panama);**

93.10 **Take the actions referred to in paragraph 138 of its national report as part of the revision and amendment of national legislation (Cuba);**

93.11 **Continue its democratization process, including efforts to enhance respect for the civil rights of its citizens to ensure equal and full enjoyment of fundamental human rights (Indonesia);**

93.12 **Continue its efforts to establish efficient and transparent public services in the country (Azerbaijan);**

93.13 **Continue to take effective measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups (China);**

93.14 **Continue to consolidate its social and human rights policies, especially in the area of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to increase the quality of life of its people, particularly the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

93.15 **Establish a monitoring and reporting system on the implementation of the education policy framework (Portugal);**

93.16 **Create a monitoring system for the implementation of the current education policy framework for the period 2004–2019 (Ukraine);**

93.17 **Establish a national human rights institution, capable of promoting and protecting human rights in the country, and that receives sufficient human and financial resources to guarantee its proper functioning (Mexico);**

93.18 **Continue the dialogue that has progressed to a certain level about forming a national human rights institution (Turkey);**

93.19 **Create a national human rights institution that monitors all rights issues in Tonga, as reiterated in the previous cycles (Uruguay);**

93.20 **Create a national human rights institution which could be based on the newly established Ombudsman's Office (France);**

93.21 **Establish a mechanism for improving coordination and strengthening of various institutions dealing with discrimination against women, taking into consideration that Tonga still has not established an institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Slovenia);**

93.22 **Ensure sufficient resources are allocated for the full and successful implementation of the Revised National Policy on Gender and Development 2014–2018 (Singapore);**

93.23 **Further strengthen mechanisms for citizens, including civil society organizations, to participate in law-making, oversight, national planning and budgeting processes (Netherlands);**

93.24 **Prioritize gender equality, as well as increase women's participation at all levels of social, political and economic decision-making in government (United States of America);**

93.25 **Adopt concrete measures to protect vulnerable groups to assist them in being more resilient to the impact of climate change and natural disasters (Republic of Korea);**

93.26 **Seek the technical and financial assistance needed to adequately address the climate change challenges and to reduce risk and implement early warning systems (Sierra Leone);**

93.27 **Address the issue of trafficking of women and children (Philippines);**

93.28 **Take measures to reinforce protections for freedom of expression, including guaranteeing the independence of public and private media (Canada);**

93.29 **Take additional steps towards the abolition of child marriage, including by raising to 18 the minimum age of marriage (Brazil);**

93.30 **Take steps to end child marriage by raising to 18 the minimum age of marriage for both boys and girls (Italy);**

93.31 **Take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation of the Family Protection Act 2013 and that it place a particular focus on legal and cultural awareness-raising campaigns (Ireland);**

93.32 **Continue to implement its strategic development framework 2015–2025 to achieve sustainable economic and social development (China);**

93.33 **Make efforts for the welfare of female workers, including by ensuring maternity leave by law (Republic of Korea);**

93.34 **Implement an official support system for working women, contemplating basic issues such as the minimum wage and maternity leave (Uruguay);**

93.35 **Continue to strengthen health care and to especially improve services for maternal health, for newborns and for children (Maldives);**

93.36 **Take the necessary measures to improve access to health, especially for children and women during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-delivery period (Algeria);**

93.37 **Implement measures to strengthen universal access to health services, including reproductive health (Angola);**

93.38 **Adopt legislative measures and political measures to combat discrimination against women and guarantee gender equality in the public and private spheres (Honduras);**

93.39 **Increase awareness-raising and information campaigns to combat violence against women (Morocco);**

93.40 **Criminalize all forms of violence against women, including domestic sexual violence (Honduras);**

93.41 **Promote equality between women and men and fight against domestic violence (France);**

93.42 **Continue with efforts to combat violence against women and children, and efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (New Zealand);**

93.43 **Promote and increase efforts for women's participation in political life and decision-making at all levels (Morocco);**

93.44 **Continue to strengthen efforts to increase women's participation at all formal decision-making levels (New Zealand);**

93.45 **Adopt specific measures to increase the representation of women in decision-making bodies, including the Legislative Assembly (Chile);**

93.46 **Establish national policies which ensure better participation of women at all levels of government and in key decision-making positions (Sierra Leone);**

93.47 **Abolish the provisions which authorize corporal punishment (Italy);**

93.48 **Prohibit all persons, especially children, from receiving lashes as disciplinary sanctions or any other type of corporal punishment, regardless of the offence they committed (Uruguay);**

93.49 **Modify national legislation to prohibit child, early and forced marriage and establish a clearly defined legal age of marriage and consent (Sierra Leone);**

93.50 **Take the necessary measures to modify the national legislation to increase the legal minimum age for marriage, as well as to raise awareness of deeply rooted attitudes and stereotypes, in particular by investigating and sanctioning cases in which girls are forced to marry children with whom they have been seen or even with their rapists (Argentina);**

93.51 **Establish a separate juvenile court or system for children and implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Turkey);**

93.52 **Continue to review and improve the relevant legislation, policies and programmes to accord those with disabilities more protection, services and opportunities to participate fully in Tongan society (Singapore).**

94. **The following recommendations will be examined by Tonga, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

94.1 **Continue its efforts to ratify all core international human rights conventions (Indonesia);**

94.2 **Make every effort to ratify core international human rights treaties, and fulfil its reporting obligations under the conventions that it has ratified (Ireland);**

94.3 **Take the necessary steps to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ghana);**

94.4 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Côte d'Ivoire) (Iceland) (Panama) (Turkey);**

94.5 **Ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Angola) (Iceland) (Mexico) (Panama) (Turkey);**

94.6 **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Angola) (Australia) (Côte d'Ivoire) (Denmark) (Iceland) (Italy) (Mexico) (Turkey);**

94.7 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil) (Iceland) (Turkey);**

94.8 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Iceland);**

94.9 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture, and take steps to raise social awareness and understanding of these instruments (Canada);**

94.10 **Accelerate steps to ratify the core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Republic of Korea);**

94.11 **Consider acceding to the International Covenants on human rights (Uruguay);**

94.12 **Examine the possibility of ratifying some international human rights legal instruments, particularly the two International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Algeria);**

94.13 **Consider ratifying the core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Azerbaijan);**

94.14 **Ratify the main international human rights treaties, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (France);**

94.15 **Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and implement it in national law (Germany);**

94.16 **Expedite the ongoing process to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as part of its ongoing efforts to promote and protect the rights of women (Maldives);**

94.17 **Work towards the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (India);**

94.18 **Consider withdrawing its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as setting up a national human rights commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Mozambique);**

94.19 **Conclude the process of ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and reconsider all the potential reservations thereto (Portugal);**

94.20 **Accelerate steps towards ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

94.21 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

94.22 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment without further delay (Denmark);**

94.23 **Increase efforts aimed at ratifying the core international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Ukraine);**

94.24 **Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Chile);**

94.25 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New Zealand);**

94.26 **Ratify and implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and support the disaggregation of Sustainable Development Goals reporting data by disability (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

94.27 **Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France);**

94.28 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) as part of the Government's ongoing commitment to achieving target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

94.29 **Ratify the main human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, as well as the fundamental International Labour Organization conventions (Honduras);**

94.30 **Continue efforts to ratify international instruments and to cooperate with human rights mechanisms (Morocco);**

94.31 **Sign and accede to the core international human rights treaties to which Tonga is not yet party, namely, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Sierra Leone);**

94.32 **Ratify core human rights treaties as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Timor-Leste);**

94.33 **Continue taking necessary measures to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles, including by increasing the capacity-building programmes for all stakeholders (Indonesia);**

94.34 **Establish a national human rights mechanism that is in accordance with the Paris Principles (Portugal); Establish a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles (Sierra Leone); Establish a national**

**human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste); Establish a national human rights institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

94.35 **Accelerate efforts to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (Georgia);**

94.36 **Introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to provide equal protection for all persons, including vulnerable groups like people with disabilities, and on all grounds, including sexual orientation and gender identity (Germany);**

94.37 **Decriminalize consensual same-sex relations (Germany);**

94.38 **Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adult persons of the same sex (Honduras);**

94.39 **Repeal legislation that criminalizes same-sex sexual practices between consenting adults and increase efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination that target individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada);**

94.40 **Adopt specialized laws that allow the creation of mechanisms to combat sexual and gender-based violence, as well as discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Mexico);**

94.41 **Enact new legislation or amend existing laws with a view to decriminalizing same-sex relations between consenting adults (Montenegro);**

94.42 **Introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to provide equal protection against discrimination for all persons and on all grounds, including sexual orientation or gender identity (Netherlands);**

94.43 **Revise the Criminal Offences Act in order to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex (Portugal);**

94.44 **Continue working together with the *leitis* (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons) civil society organization to adopt the necessary reforms to eradicate discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**

94.45 **Repeal the provisions of the Criminal Offences Act that criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults (Timor-Leste);**

94.46 **Repeal the provisions of the Tongan Criminal Offences Act that criminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex status and conduct (United States of America);**

94.47 **In follow-up to the recommendation made in 2013, take urgent measures to repeal the norms and regulations that sanction and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, as well as to investigate and sanction the perpetrators of acts of discrimination and violence towards those persons (Argentina);**

94.48 **Abolish the death penalty (Honduras);**

94.49 **Formally abolish the death penalty, including by ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

94.50 **Consider fully abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

94.51 **Abolish the death penalty, considering its de facto moratorium since 1982 (Canada);**

94.52 **Transform its de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty into a definitive abolition (Portugal);**

94.53 **Continue to incorporate into legislation the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, otherwise known as the "Bangkok Rules" (Thailand);**

94.54 **Develop a broader legal aid system that offers free legal counsel to indigent defendants (United States of America);**

94.55 **Carry out regulatory reforms so that women can decide to perform contraceptive medical interventions and any other practice related to their health (Uruguay);**

94.56 **Eliminate from its legal system discriminatory norms based on gender and redouble its efforts to combat any discriminatory practice against women, particularly their right to property (Honduras);**

94.57 **Amend the Land Act currently in effect, particularly its provision preventing women from inheriting land (Iceland);**

94.58 **Prioritize work to eliminate violence against women, and to improve gender equality, including in relation to property and employment (Australia).**

95. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Tonga was headed by Solicitor General, Mr. Sione Sisifa, and composed of the following members:

- Ms. Susana Faletau, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Sione Sonata Tupou, Acting High Commissioner, Tonga High Commission, London;
- Ms. Akanesi Katoa, Assistant Crown Counsel.

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**Universal periodic review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Romania

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Romania was held at the 3rd meeting, on 16 January 2018. The delegation of Romania was headed by the Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Alexandru Victor Micula. At its 10th meeting, held on 19 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Romania.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Romania: Iraq, Nigeria and Ukraine.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Romania:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ROU/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ROU/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/ROU/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Romania through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation stated that Romania had held presidential, parliamentary and local, as well as European Parliament elections, since its second universal period review in 2013. During the reporting period, the Government had taken several measures to improve its institutional and legislative framework relating to the protection of human rights.

6. The national report was structured in line with the recommendations from the second review, a large number of which concerned protection from discrimination, particularly against the Roma. The national report highlighted the importance that the authorities attached to that subject and provided information on several achievements in that regard. It outlined the main measures that had been taken to end segregation in education, integrate Roma culture into the school curricula, and improve the access of the Roma to the labour market and the health-care system. The strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020 took into account recommendations from the European Union.

7. Furthermore, Romania had continued to invest in social housing programmes for Roma communities. The eviction of tenants and the demolition of buildings constructed without authorization on State land had been carried out in accordance with the national legislation, providing a judicial review and legal guarantees against forced evictions. The Government had also taken several special measures to address barriers that the Roma had been facing in the area of housing.

8. Romania had continued to pursue a policy aimed at preventing and sanctioning all forms of discrimination. The Government had developed and adopted the "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" Strategy 2016–2020, based on the recommendations of the Council of Europe and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. It built on the

2007–2013 strategy and on the need to ensure greater coherence in the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation. Additionally, many sectoral strategies concerning human rights contained provisions on combating discrimination. Awareness-raising activities had been carried out in the framework of those strategies in order to effectively achieve the desired results. For example, between 2015 and 2017, several public awareness-raising campaigns had been carried out and professional training delivered on gender equality.

9. The National Council for Combating Discrimination had become increasingly effective in its work. It had received a growing number of petitions over the reporting period. It had also received more requests to provide its expert opinion on judicial proceedings. The courts had continued to play an important role in ensuring respect of the principle of non-discrimination by giving due consideration to European and international practices.

10. The Government attributed great importance to the protection of the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups. It had therefore adopted a series of normative acts to improve protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. A national strategy for 2016–2020 entitled "A society without barriers for persons with disabilities" aimed to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and embraced the vision of the European Disability Strategy 2010–2020. The national strategy underlined the authorities' commitment to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

11. Several measures had been taken regarding the legal representation of persons with disabilities during the reporting period. For example, a new law adopted in 2016 provided for the creation of a council to monitor the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in general and in particular, to review the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in residential institutions and to follow up cases of deaths in such institutions. The Prosecutor General had set out clear guidelines on how to conduct effective investigations into reports of violations of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Prosecutor's Office had taken several measures to ensure that crimes perpetrated against persons with disabilities in residential institutions or against individuals placed in mental health institutions were effectively investigated.

12. The Government continued to pursue efforts to reduce child poverty, including by relying on financial support from the European Union. All the national strategies addressing the social exclusion of different groups of vulnerable children set a requirement for an integrated national response to address the multiple drivers of inequality. The provision of individualized and integrated support through single entry points or personalized case managers could improve the effectiveness and efficiency of social services. The National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption had strengthened its capacity to develop new, evidence-based policies for deinstitutionalization by making use of funds from the European Union.

13. Additionally, in 2017, Parliament had adopted a law establishing the Ombudsman for Children, following recommendations from several United Nations human rights bodies. Thus, Romania would have an independent institution to supervise the way children's rights were respected nationwide in 2018.

14. Measures had also been taken to address violence against children. Several awareness-raising campaigns conducted by the Government in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and civil society organizations had contributed to the recognition of various forms of violence and abuse. The number of reported cases of physical violence and neglect had increased. In 2016, Romania had become a pioneer in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, committing to identify and operationalize initiatives to end violence against children, and to deliver comprehensive prevention and response services against violence.

15. The National Agency against Trafficking in Persons had been managing an integrated system for maintaining regular contact with the victims of human trafficking. The system contained data on victims of human trafficking identified in Romania, as well as Romanian citizens identified as victims abroad.

16. The Romanian Constitution and other laws provided guarantees for the independence of the judiciary. The national strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020 and its subsequent action plan aimed at improving the efficiency of the judiciary. To date, the work on developing a comprehensive legislative framework on the functioning of the judiciary had been completed.

17. The national report outlined the efforts of the Government to address prison overcrowding. Significant progress had been made by reducing the shortage of detention places from 18,000 in 2012 to 4,300 in 2018. That issue would be fully addressed in the near future.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

18. During the interactive dialogue, 78 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

19. Australia commended Romania for the progress made in implementing reforms concerning anti-corruption and the judiciary. It encouraged Romania to continue its efforts towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Australia expressed concern about reports of discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

20. Israel commended Romania for its role as a chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. It noted the importance of the work of the National Council for Combating Discrimination and the measures taken to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

21. Italy welcomed the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), the adoption of the new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, the establishment of a department on prevention of torture within the Ombudsman's Office and the measures aiming at Roma inclusion.

22. Japan welcomed the efforts of Romania to combat human trafficking, and the re-establishment of the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption and legislative measures to protect the rights of children.

23. Malaysia was encouraged by the efforts of Romania to make education at all levels more accessible to a wider section of the population, including by setting up inclusive education centres, increasing access to education for children with special needs and adopting a national strategy to prevent children from dropping out of school.

24. Maldives commended Romania for the steps it had taken to strengthen the judiciary. Maldives was encouraged by the Government's efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, and welcomed the relevant national strategy.

25. Mexico welcomed the progress made towards eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality, including the establishment of the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the adoption of the national strategy.

26. Mongolia noted that issues such as gender inequality, domestic violence, women living in poverty, women's employment, the wage gap and discrimination required serious attention. It expressed concern at the situation in the health sector.

27. Montenegro commended Romania for the progress achieved in judicial reform, fighting corruption and human rights protection overall. It encouraged Romania to continue strengthening inclusive policies, particularly in education, social and health protection and access to the labour market.

28. Morocco welcomed the fact that Romania was considering ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its efforts in the field of human rights education, including professional training.

29. Mozambique commended Romania for its ratification of several international human rights instruments, which demonstrated its political commitment to protecting and fulfilling the rights of its people.

30. The Netherlands welcomed the ratification by Romania of the Istanbul Convention and urged it to expedite the process of harmonizing national legislation with the provisions of the Convention.

31. Norway noted the efforts of Romania to reform the judiciary and to fight corruption. Norway stated that Roma children and children with disabilities faced discrimination, despite progress made in those areas.

32. Panama acknowledged the efforts of the Government to improve the legislative and institutional framework and the measures targeting the judiciary, corruption, human trafficking and discrimination against children. It noted challenges in ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities, older persons and minorities.

33. Peru noted the efforts of Romania to protect human rights, including its strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority and the inclusion of an intercultural perspective in the school curriculum.

34. The Philippines commended Romania for its policy to combat all forms of discrimination and for the broad consultations conducted in the process of adopting a national anti-discrimination strategy. It noted the "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" Strategy 2016–2020.

35. Portugal thanked Romania for its comprehensive national report.

36. Qatar noted various legislative and institutional measures taken by Romania to implement the recommendations from the previous review and appreciated the annual increase in the budget to address challenges in the education system, including the number of children who dropped out of school.

37. The Republic of Korea commended Romania for its National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020 and for legislative measures to combat human trafficking. It urged Romania to strengthen its ongoing efforts to ensure social and economic justice and inclusiveness.

38. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the national strategies concerning children, persons with disabilities and the Roma, and the results achieved from the introduction of legislative measures to combat human trafficking, child sexual exploitation and violence against women.

39. The Russian Federation expressed concern about the situation of the Roma and about cases of child labour. It noted problems in ensuring the independence of the judiciary and in enforcing judicial decisions, and delays in the administration of justice.

40. Senegal commended Romania for its national strategies to protect persons with disabilities and the Roma minority, and to combat poverty. It welcomed the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, and legislation on human trafficking.

41. Serbia noted the establishment of institutions relating to human rights, including for the prevention of torture, inclusive education and national minorities. It encouraged the authorities to continue to ensure that hate speech was not tolerated and that perpetrators were brought to justice.

42. Sierra Leone noted the adoption of strategies on the rights of children and on mental health, and the criminalization of human trafficking. It encouraged Romania to intensify its efforts to protect the rights of Roma children and children with disabilities.

43. Slovenia noted with regret the high rate of teenage pregnancies, which could be attributed to the absence of a strategy on reproductive health. It commended Romania for its measures to protect the rights of children, including to improve their access to health care and education.

44. Spain welcomed the commitment of Romania to ensure gender equality and to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the women and peace and security agenda.

45. The State of Palestine was concerned about racist hate crimes against the Roma and negative stereotypes in public and political speech, despite efforts to combat discrimination. It welcomed the steps Romania had taken regarding business and human rights.

46. Sweden acknowledged the continued work of Romania to fulfil its human rights obligations and encouraged further efforts.

47. Switzerland welcomed efforts aimed at combating segregation in the education system. It noted shortcomings in the fields of adequate housing, education and health care, and the fact that poverty and social exclusion affected a large number of Romanian children.

48. Timor-Leste welcomed the adoption of national strategies on the inclusion of the Roma, on the protection of the rights of children and on mental health. It remained concerned about widespread discrimination against the Roma.

49. Tunisia praised Romania for its efforts to establish an institutional framework for the protection of human rights and for adopting strategies relating to the protection of the rights of children.

50. Turkmenistan noted that the Government had involved civil society organizations in the preparation of the national report. It also noted the national policy on ensuring equality and inclusion of minorities.

51. Ukraine welcomed the steps taken by Romania to ensure that the Romanian Institute for Human Rights was in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles). It also welcomed the constructive approach to the protection of the rights of national minorities through dialogue and cooperation.

52. The United Kingdom welcomed efforts to improve prison conditions, and the ratification of the Istanbul Convention. It encouraged more action on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

53. The United States, while commending the commitment of Romania to promoting human rights, expressed concern about legislative amendments that could undermine judicial independence, reports of unfair treatment of religious minorities and insufficient progress in combating discrimination against the Roma.

54. Uruguay, while commending the efforts of Romania to protect the rights of children, hoped that Romania would implement a previous review recommendation on birth registration. It noted the persistence of hate speech against the Roma, discrimination against vulnerable groups and gender discrimination.

55. The delegation of Romania stated that the Government had consolidated a comprehensive system to combat discrimination in line with the standards of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union. Within the framework of preventive measures, the Government had organized public awareness campaigns and provided training for relevant professionals, including judges, law enforcement officers and public officials. The judiciary had gained substantial knowledge and experience in dealing with cases of discrimination in accordance with international standards. While the number of reported cases had increased, underreporting remained a problem. The legislative and institutional frameworks on combating discrimination had been effective and accessible to victims of discrimination who sought redress. The Government had drafted a national anti-discrimination strategy.

56. Perpetrators of hate speech had been prosecuted and sanctioned, regardless of their background, including their status as public figures.

57. The Government had taken significant steps to ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities in education, particularly by revising the relevant procedure to provide social benefits for children with disabilities when accessing education. The amount of social

benefits for persons with disabilities, including children, had been significantly increased. The Government had officially recognized sign language as a communication tool.

58. The Government had taken measures to reinforce the 4 per cent employment quota system for persons with disabilities and it had been respected, including by public institutions. To that end, sanctions had been increased for non-compliance with the quota. In 2017, the Government had assessed a large number of public institutions to ensure their accessibility for persons with disabilities. It had taken practical measures to foster the deinstitutionalization of persons with disabilities and support their transition to community-based services, including by allocating significant financial resources. It had made efforts to remove barriers to ensure the social inclusion of persons with disabilities.

59. The National Agency for Roma would continue updating the National Action Plan for Roma, by taking into account recommendations from the European Union and the 2017–2020 government programme, which was aimed at developing and implementing sustainable policies in order to reduce the gap between the Roma and non-Roma populations, promoting diversity and combating discrimination. The Agency would continue to develop a monitoring and evaluation system in order to measure progress in the social inclusion of the Roma. It would also set up a task force to implement specific solutions for housing and eviction issues.

60. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela praised several measures that had been taken to promote the rights of children with disabilities and access to education for children from vulnerable families, prevent discrimination against the Roma, strengthen the judiciary, combat human trafficking, prevent domestic violence and reduce infant mortality.

61. Viet Nam commended the adoption of laws on access to education for children from disadvantaged families and to health care and community services for disadvantaged people.

62. Afghanistan commended legislative steps in the fields of non-discrimination and gender equality, following up on recommendations from the previous review.

63. Albania commended strategies and efforts to strengthen the judiciary and improve education, as well as the anti-corruption measures taken since the previous review. It welcomed efforts to strengthen the institutional human rights framework to comply with the Paris Principles.

64. Algeria welcomed measures taken to implement recommendations from the previous review relating to the judiciary, the fight against corruption and the rights of vulnerable groups. It welcomed steps to improve access to education and housing.

65. Andorra praised the efforts of Romania to ratify international human rights instruments.

66. Angola commended Romania for its continuing commitment to the human rights treaty bodies.

67. Armenia appreciated the legislative measures taken to protect the rights of children and encouraged Romania to pursue those efforts. It welcomed steps taken to combat human trafficking, including the adoption of legislation and the provision of training to relevant professionals.

68. Ireland acknowledged the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the increased spending on education. It urged Romania to tackle societal prejudice towards national minorities and allocate resources to implement the strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020.

69. While commending Romania for its progress in human rights, Austria expressed concern over the dire housing situation of the Roma and about the social marginalization, ill-treatment and inadequate living conditions of persons with disabilities.

70. Azerbaijan recognized the efforts of Romania to increase the quality and accountability of the justice system, including the strategy for the development of the judiciary, and to prevent and combat corruption through the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

71. Belarus noted the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the adoption of the strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020. It stated that additional efforts were required to achieve progress on social issues.

72. Belgium noted the positive measures taken by Romania to implement the recommendations from the previous review. Nevertheless, additional action should be taken to strengthen human rights protection in accordance with international human rights treaties, particularly in the area of non-discrimination.

73. The Plurinational State of Bolivia requested additional information on the experience of Romania in promoting breastfeeding. It invited Romania to participate and support the draft declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

74. Brazil acknowledged the accession of Romania to the statelessness conventions, but was concerned that the citizenship law did not provide safeguards against statelessness for children born in the territory who would otherwise be stateless.

75. Bulgaria highlighted the efforts of Romania to prevent and combat corruption and ensure institutional transparency in the public sector. It commended the legislative amendments introduced to achieve equality between men and women and to protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

76. Canada encouraged Romania to take further steps to improve health care, housing and employment and increase access to education for the Roma. It supported efforts to counter domestic violence and violence against women.

77. Chad commended Romania for putting in place institutional mechanisms for the implementation of laws and policies for the protection of human rights. It welcomed the adoption of the 2016–2020 national strategy entitled "A society without barriers for persons with disabilities".

78. Chile congratulated Romania for establishing an interministerial committee to combat domestic violence, and welcomed efforts to improve prison conditions. It noted current challenges, such as discrimination against the Roma.

79. China praised the progress made by Romania in the protection of human rights. It noted with appreciation the strengthening of the legislative framework and the significant developments in the education and health sectors and the promotion of gender equality.

80. Côte d'Ivoire appreciated the reforms undertaken by the Government to follow up on recommendations from the previous review. It welcomed the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020.

81. Croatia welcomed the national strategy on the protection and promotion of children's rights 2014–2020. It encouraged Romania to continue pursuing its efforts to implement the legislative framework on domestic violence and to ensure more efficient assistance to the victims of violence.

82. Cuba acknowledged the measures taken by the Government that were highlighted in the national report and demonstrated the commitment of Romania to addressing the current challenges in the area of human rights. It noted the improvements that had been made to ensure the protection of the rights of children, particularly Roma children and children with disabilities.

83. Cyprus noted the criminalization of all offences relating to human trafficking under the new Criminal Code and the measures taken to improve the inclusion of the Roma. It encouraged Romania to continue its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including through the adoption of a national strategy.

84. Czechia acknowledged the progress made in several human rights areas and encouraged Romania to pursue its efforts.

85. Egypt took note of the positive developments in the human rights situation in Romania.

86. Estonia called on Romania to provide sufficient resources to the mechanisms aimed at protecting the rights of children. It expected that the new anti-corruption strategy would assist in addressing corruption effectively. Estonia was concerned about attempts to restrict the media and harass journalists.

87. Finland welcomed the legislative changes ensuring that all children born in hospital received a national identity document, and the adoption of the law on promoting participation in preschool education of children from disadvantaged families. It was imperative that decisive action be taken to implement that law.

88. France highlighted the importance of pursuing the efforts made to fight corruption.

89. Georgia commended Romania for ratifying the Istanbul Convention. It welcomed the adoption of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020.

90. Germany commended Romania for the progress made with regard to the work of the National Council for Combating Discrimination. It remained concerned about the human rights situation of persons from vulnerable groups, including the Roma and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

91. Ghana commended Romania for the progress made in the area of human rights, including the adoption of laws to protect the rights of children and of persons with disabilities and to combat domestic violence. It expressed concern about discrimination against Roma children, children with disabilities and refugee children.

92. Greece expressed appreciation for the effective implementation by Romania of the two national anti-corruption strategies. It also welcomed the importance attributed to human rights education, particularly the professional training provided for schoolteachers, judges and lawyers.

93. Honduras welcomed the action taken by Romania to implement the recommendations received during the previous review cycles. It praised the progress made in combating corruption and policies to fight against trafficking in persons.

94. Hungary noted its efforts to build a relationship with Romania based on mutual respect. It stated that a recent public statement by a representative of the Government of Romania, containing threats against a national minority, was inconsistent with international human rights values.

95. Iceland welcomed the work that had been carried out to promote inclusive education and reduce discrimination in schools between Roma and non-Roma, while noting that further improvements were needed, as highlighted in the national report.

96. India welcomed the establishment of the National Commission for Desegregation and Educational Inclusion, the department on prevention of torture in places of detention within the Ombudsman's Office and the National Agency for the Administration of Seized Assets. It noted the continued efforts of the Government on the inclusion of the Roma community.

97. Indonesia commended Romania for its efforts to develop human rights education and training for democratic citizenship, as well as measures to guarantee the rights of migrants.

98. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020 and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020.

99. Iraq welcomed the adoption of the action plan for the implementation of the strategy for the development of the judiciary 2015–2020 and the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and the amendments to some national legislation.

100. Slovakia commended Romania for its efforts to address human rights issues and improve the legislative framework. It valued the adoption of two national strategies, one relating to the protection of the rights of children and one to mental health.

101. Argentina highlighted the section of the national report concerning vulnerable groups, children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and hate crimes.

102. The delegation of Romania said that efforts were being made to modernize detention facilities and reduce prison overcrowding. Renovations to existing prisons and the construction of new buildings helped address issues relating to detention conditions and the shortage of detention places. The construction of two new penitentiaries had been planned by 2023. Investment in penitentiary infrastructure had been funded by the State budget, as would continue to be the case. In addition, financial support had been received from the Government of Norway, and loans had been made by international organizations. The Government had also taken several measures to address the shortage of prison staff and ensure effective management of prison incidents. The Government had prepared a detailed timetable, covering the period to 2024, to overcome prison overcrowding, improve detention conditions and ensure that effective remedies were available to compensate for damages caused in the past as a result of those issues.

103. Combating human trafficking remained a priority for the Government. The national strategy against trafficking of human beings 2012–2016 has focused on prevention and protection measures. A large part of the educational and awareness-raising activities had targeted groups that were particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Romania had taken measures to improve victim identification and to ensure effective investigation of cases of human trafficking and prosecution of perpetrators, including seizing the assets of and profits made by human traffickers. It had strengthened international cooperation in order to fight trafficking in human beings effectively through increased participation in joint investigation teams for human trafficking cases.

104. As a result of legislative reforms implemented in 2014, particularly amendments to the Civil Code, the number of persons deprived of liberty had fallen and the use of alternative measures of punishment had increased. The Government had ensured that human rights non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had increased access to places of police detention in order to carry out monitoring visits.

105. The Government had taken several measures to build trust and understanding between the police and the Roma minority, which had resulted in an increase in the number of police officers of Roma origin. The Police Academy provided professional training on the protection of human rights and combating discrimination. Between 2013 and 2016, over 300 police officers had received training in the Romani language and culture. To better connect with the needs of the Roma community, specialized community policing for the Roma communities had been set up in 2013, with financial support from the Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Programme. An advisory committee had been set up to study police interventions in multi-ethnic communities and put forward recommendations on how to effectively organize and carry out such actions, as well as document and disseminate good practices in the field of Roma-police relations. Additionally, since 2017 police officers had been receiving training on the Holocaust.

106. The Ministry of Internal Affairs has been promoting gender equality among law enforcement officers. There were currently over 10,000 women police officers. The current Minister of Internal Affairs was the first woman to head a ministry in Romania.

107. The new amendments to the law on the Ombudsman had introduced provisions to ensure the full compliance of the Ombudsman's Office with the Paris Principles, which would assist in its accreditation as a national human rights institution. The Ombudsman's Office had been allocated an adequate budget for 2018 for its effective functioning under the expanded mandate.

108. The Ombudsman for Children had been established under new legislation and could receive complaints concerning violations of the rights of children and carry out anonymous visits to detention centres, foster-care centres and educational and health institutions. The Ombudsman had been authorized to file criminal complaints for cases of violence against and abuse of a child. Romania would carefully consider the issue of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

109. The relevant laws and strategies provided the necessary guarantees for the protection of children against violence in all settings. The legal framework provided for effective

cooperation among the relevant State bodies, including local authorities, to effectively protect children.

110. Several State officials involved in addressing domestic violence had received specialized training. The law on combating domestic violence provided victims of domestic violence with special protection, as well as rehabilitation, social reintegration and medical services. A helpline for victims of domestic violence was in operation in the country. The number of prosecutions relating to cases of domestic violence had increased. Judges had received specialized training on domestic violence.

111. From January 2018, prosecutor's offices had been collecting disaggregated data based on all the forms of discrimination enumerated in the Criminal Code. Special hearing rooms for children had been established in several courts.

112. The implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2016–2020 was being monitored by the Ministry of Justice through the technical secretariat of the Strategy.

113. The delegation considered that the statement made by one State Member of the United Nations in relation to a declaration made by a representative of the Government of Romania to be an example of fake news, and suggested that the content of that declaration be verified in order to avoid such a mistake. The delegation thanked all States Members of the United Nations that had taken part in the interactive dialogue. The authorities of Romania remained committed to promoting and protecting the human rights of every individual. The Government would continue to make every effort to implement the highest standards in that area, in accordance with its international commitments.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

114. **The following recommendations will be examined by Romania, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

114.1 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro) (Panama);**

114.2 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras);**

114.3 **Continue its efforts aimed at ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

114.4 **Ratify, as soon as possible, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Japan);**

114.5 **Ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Panama);**

114.6 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention (Philippines);**

114.7 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Morocco) (Philippines);**

114.8 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

114.9 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Timor-Leste) (Chile);**

114.10 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

114.11 **Ratify, among others, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique);**

114.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Cyprus);**

114.13 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Honduras);**

114.14 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);**

114.15 **Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Chile);**

114.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

114.17 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

114.18 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Andorra) (Czechia) (Slovakia);**

114.19 **Sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Spain);**

114.20 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Albania);**

114.21 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and to the Optional Protocols to which it is committed, notably the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Sierra Leone);**

114.22 **Ratify the Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Andorra);**

114.23 **Consider recognizing the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive individual communications in accordance with article 22 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);**

114.24 **Adopt an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.25 **Ensure the compliance of the national human rights institution with the Paris Principles (Qatar);**

114.26 **Ensure the Romanian Institute for Human Rights is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Korea);**

114.27 **Ensure that its Institute for Human Rights is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste);**

114.28 **Finalize the process of accreditation of national human rights institutions with the status responding to the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

114.29 **Ensure the proper functioning of the newly established Children's Ombudsman in accordance with the Paris Principles (Republic of Moldova);**

114.30 **Pursue all necessary steps with the aim of establishing an ombudsperson for children's rights (Cyprus);**

114.31 **Implement the law on the creation of an independent and autonomous Children's Ombudsperson under the existing Ombudsperson's**

**institution with clear objectives and power to protect and to monitor children's rights and to ensure also protection of youth rights (Slovenia);**

114.32 **Strengthen the resources of the independent institution on the protection of the rights of children and youth to enable it to function efficiently (Senegal);**

114.33 **Step up efforts for the creation of an independent institution for the protection of the rights of children and youth (Greece);**

114.34 **Consider the establishment or strengthening of the existing national mechanism for coordination, implementation, reporting and follow-up, in line with the elements arising from good practices identified in the 2016 OHCHR guide on national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (Portugal);**

114.35 **Carry out a comprehensive review of its national system for human rights in order to correct existing duplication between the different component bodies, rationalize resources and render it more effective (Honduras);**

114.36 **Ensure that the modifications to the Justice Laws and Criminal Codes do not impede the human rights of its citizens and take into full consideration the relevant opinion of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) (Netherlands);**

114.37 **Comply with the recommendations of the European Commission's Cooperation and Verification Mechanism and make sure those reforms are irreversible and sustainable, in order to allow for the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism to be concluded (Sweden);**

114.38 **Continue to ensure the rule of law, by following the recommendations of the European Union's Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, and by seizing the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe without delay to carry out an evaluation of the reform of the judiciary, of draft legislation regarding the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as the draft law on the conditions for the functioning of civil society organizations (France);**[1]

114.39 **Implement its strategies on equality, inclusion and diversity, as well as the corresponding operational plans, which will allow it to continue to make progress in the fight against discrimination (Cuba);**

114.40 **Adopt as quickly as possible the Multi-Annual Strategy on Preventing and Combating Discrimination (Germany);**

114.41 **Expedite the approval of the "Equality, Inclusion, Diversity" Strategy 2016–2020 and its Operational Plan aiming at combating discrimination and hate crimes (Indonesia);**

114.42 **Review its national anti-discrimination legislation and polices so as to incorporate all non-discrimination criteria, including gender identity and sexual orientation (Honduras);**

114.43 **Continue efforts to ensure gender equality and promote women's rights (Tunisia);**

114.44 **Harmonize gender equality for guaranteeing equal rights (Turkmenistan);**

[1] The recommendation, as read during the interactive dialogue, was: "Ensure the rule of law, by following the recommendations of the European Union's Cooperation and Verification Mechanism, and by seizing the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe without delay to carry out an evaluation of the reform of the judiciary, of draft legislation regarding the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, as well as the draft law on the conditions for the functioning of civil society organizations."

114.45 **Adopt a legal mechanism to promote gender equality and social inclusion for all (Angola);**

114.46 **Continue efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and stigmatization, and hate speech (Tunisia);**

114.47 **Eradicate social exclusion and statements of public figures (political or religious) which hamper the sexual health and reproductive rights of women (Uruguay);**

114.48 **Ensure that the National Council for Combating Discrimination increases its efforts to fight discrimination against people belonging to minority and other vulnerable groups (Israel);**

114.49 **Continue to conduct awareness-raising campaigns at the national level aimed at reducing prejudice, hate speech and discrimination against minorities and vulnerable groups (Mexico);**[2]

114.50 **Adopt a law punishing discriminatory and racist statements made in public or in the media against representatives of national minorities (Russian Federation);**

114.51 **Adopt and implement a strategy to combat discrimination against members of minority groups, including religious groups (United States of America);**

114.52 **Take urgent measures to investigate and sanction acts of hatred such as discrimination against migrants, minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, in particular those acts carried out by public officials (Argentina);**

114.53 **Combat racial stereotypes and incitement to hatred by intensifying efforts aimed at promoting tolerance, notably with regard to persons belonging to the Roma minority (France);**

114.54 **Continue to combat discrimination and uphold the rights of those marginalized in its society, especially the Roma population (Philippines);**

114.55 **Adopt specific legislative and policy measures, with a gender focus, to combat discrimination against the Roma in law and in practice, which include positive measures to guarantee inclusion in the areas of health, education, housing and employment, particularly in rural areas (Honduras);**

114.56 **Continue efforts to fight prejudice and negative stereotypes that discriminate and exclude the Roma, and in that framework, end illegal forced evictions of the Roma (Peru);**

114.57 **Address the root causes of discrimination and social exclusion faced by Roma, especially prejudices and negative stereotypes (Panama);**

114.58 **Strengthen efforts to eliminate discrimination against Roma and to ensure in particular their access to education, social housing, health care and employment without discrimination (Austria);**

114.59 **Continue to address negative prejudices and stereotypes, which are among the main causes of systemic discrimination and social exclusion experienced by Roma (State of Palestine);**

114.60 **Continue working to eradicate all forms of stigmatization and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**

[2] The recommendation, as read during the interactive dialogue, was: "Conduct awareness-raising campaigns at the national level aimed at reducing prejudice, hate speech and discrimination against minorities and vulnerable groups."

114.61 **Intensify efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, especially against persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including by promoting a culture of equality and by removing obstacles to the enjoyment of their rights (Italy);**

114.62 **Continue efforts to combat discrimination and protect vulnerable groups, particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, and take steps to fully implement, monitor and evaluate the national strategy on equality and non-discrimination (Australia);**

114.63 **Invest in more training and awareness-raising initiatives for police officers, judges and prosecutors to guarantee effective investigations of crimes against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Spain);**

114.64 **Develop and implement programmes to counter discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including public awareness campaigns and specialized training for law enforcement officials (Canada);**

114.65 **Increase the organization of awareness-raising campaigns to enhance the understanding of the general population of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, paying particular attention to raising awareness among students (Belgium);**

114.66 **Take active measures to prevent discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, for example by including gender identity in the list of criteria of non-discrimination and making provision in law for same-sex civil partnership and marriage (Ireland);**

114.67 **Introduce a civil legal partnership between same-sex couples, and refrain from a referendum on constitutional changes prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying, which would likely increase negative sentiments against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Sweden);**

114.68 **Ensure that acts of discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and persons belonging to other vulnerable groups are properly investigated and perpetrators held accountable (Austria);**

114.69 **Promote more tolerance towards persons belonging to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community (Greece);**

114.70 **Launch an awareness-raising programme for the public against negative prejudice and discrimination against persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity and against persons with HIV/AIDS (Czechia);**

114.71 **Adopt a law or a code of conduct prohibiting and criminalizing incitement to hatred, which would apply to political figures and Parliamentarians making racist, homophobic or xenophobic speeches or of any other intolerant nature (Uruguay);**

114.72 **Take measures to prevent hate crimes, in particular driven by racial and discriminatory motives (Republic of Korea);**

114.73 **Take measures to effectively combat hate speech and hate crimes, notably by ensuring that all their forms are specifically addressed and punished by law, as recommended by the treaty bodies (Belgium);**

114.74 **Ensure that the law prohibiting incitement to hatred is applied to all politicians who use racist rhetoric (Côte d'Ivoire);**

114.75 **Take steps to address all reported cases of racist hate crimes committed against the Roma minority, including anti-Roma hate speech rhetoric and negative stereotypes (Ghana);**

114.76 **Collect and publish data on hate crimes that include motivation, for example whether the crime is motivated by a bias against the victim's race,**

**religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, or disability status (United States of America);**

114.77 **Systematically collect and publish disaggregated statistical data concerning hate crimes, which should include information on the motives of the perpetrators (Germany);**

114.78 **Continue to prevent and combat discrimination in education and health care (Serbia);**

114.79 **Provide funding and human resources in rural areas to reduce and eliminate disparities, with particular focus on access to education, access to birth registration and abolishment of classroom segregation (Norway);**

114.80 **Strengthen measures to reduce inequalities between urban and rural areas, especially on access to basic services (Angola);**

114.81 **Improve the access of the rural population to education and health care (France);**

114.82 **Continue its anti-corruption efforts by fully implementing its National Anti-Corruption Strategy, and entrenching judicial independence (Australia);**

114.83 **Support and intensify efforts to combat corruption by implementing the Anti-Corruption Strategy and safeguarding the work of the National Anti-Corruption Directorate and the High Court of Cassation and Justice (Canada);**

114.84 **Take measures to combat corruption in the health sector (Republic of Korea);**

114.85 **Continue to fight corruption in the heath sector, by taking both criminal action as well as measures to increase awareness of the negative effects of informal payments within the medical profession (France);**

114.86 **Continue its efforts to further improve efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service of the country (Azerbaijan);**

114.87 **Intensify oversight over Romanian companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation, where there are heightened risks of human rights abuses (State of Palestine);**

114.88 **Continue to strengthen measures to implement legislation against domestic violence (Maldives);**

114.89 **Design and implement a national plan to combat gender-based violence as well as provide greater resources to assist victims (Spain);**

114.90 **Create integrated support services for survivors of sexual violence, including in cases in which the aggressor is not a family member, and amend Law No. 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence in order to expand its scope to all forms of gender-based violence (Portugal);**

114.91 **Develop and adopt a national strategy to combat gender-based violence, amend the law on domestic violence to extend it to cover all forms of gender-based violence and ensure that the revised law is fully implemented (Chad);**

114.92 **Continue with efforts to ensure broader access of victims of gender-based and domestic violence to justice and regulate clearly their protections (Croatia);**

114.93 **Monitor the implementation of the amended law on combating domestic violence and use the results to further improve the prosecution of**

**domestic violence and ensure that all perpetrators are adequately punished (Czechia);**

114.94 **Strengthen programmes to fight domestic violence (Iraq);**

114.95 **Reject legislation weakening the rule of law and endangering the fight against corruption (United States of America);**

114.96 **Continue judicial reforms and fight corruption in line with international standards (Norway);**

114.97 **Finalize the reform of the judiciary (Senegal);**

114.98 **Preserve and reinforce the independence of the judiciary to ensure the sustainability of governance reforms through the implementation of the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism recommendations set forth by the European Commission (Canada);**

114.99 **Take measures to reform the judicial branch and to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Prosecutor's Office and the level of professional capacity of its staff (Russian Federation);**

114.100 **Develop a national strategy to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable groups, including by providing training on human rights to the staff of the judiciary (Mexico);**

114.101 **Adopt legislative measures to include proportional punishment for illegal and cruel treatment of detainees and prisoners (Russian Federation);**

114.102 **Take measures to identify and prevent the activities of criminal groups using children in illegal businesses, including prostitution and pornography (Russian Federation);**

114.103 **Remove any existing restriction to the practice of pro bono legal advice, counselling or services provided by lawyers to those in need of legal aid who are unable to afford legal representation (Portugal);**

114.104 **Ensure that all persons deprived of their liberty by the police have the right to a defence and to hold discussions with a lawyer, as provided for in Romanian law (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.105 **Ensure all allegations of ill-treatment committed by law enforcement officers are promptly and effectively investigated (Austria);**

114.106 **Direct further focus to safeguarding freedom of expression and media freedom (Estonia);**

114.107 **Intensify efforts to combat modern slavery by protecting the rights of victims, including their right to anonymity, and provide assistance to victims, including, where appropriate, shelter, counselling and a 24/7 hotline (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.108 **Take further measures to combat human trafficking and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice (Armenia);**

114.109 **Further intensify its efforts to prevent human trafficking by investigating cases proactively, bringing offenders to successful prosecution and imposing proportionate sanctions (Ireland);**

114.110 **Continue the national efforts aimed at combating trafficking in persons and exploitation of children (Egypt);**

114.111 **Pursue efforts aimed at preventing, suppressing and combating human trafficking to ensure that the objectives of the national strategy against trafficking in persons are achieved (Ghana);**

114.112 **Continue the fight against trafficking in human beings and engagement in regional and international cooperation in this respect (Bulgaria);**

114.113 **Continue to effectively combat human trafficking through legislative and administrative measures (China);**

114.114 **Strengthen its national strategy against trafficking in persons, and include preventive measures aimed at addressing the vulnerable situation of women (Honduras);**

114.115 **Intensify the efforts aimed at preventing trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation and trafficking of children (Iraq);**

114.116 **Intensify its efforts to prevent trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation and trafficking in children, and improve the timely identification of victims of human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.117 **Strengthen efforts to fight against human trafficking and economic and social exploitation and enhance assistance to victims (Italy);**

114.118 **Steadily implement the relevant domestic laws and its national strategy aimed at eradicating human trafficking (Japan);**

114.119 **Step up efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking, especially for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation and forced begging through timely detection and assistance to victims (Panama);**

114.120 **Continue the ongoing efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, especially trafficking of children, and protect them from sexual exploitation (Tunisia);**

114.121 **Continue its efforts to prevent, suppress and combat human trafficking (Timor-Leste);**

114.122 **Continue the efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

114.123 **Take consolidated measures in order to ensure effective rehabilitation services for the victims of trafficking, exploitation and violence against women (Republic of Moldova);**

114.124 **Continue strengthening the national measures aimed at providing protection to the family as the natural and basic unit of society (Egypt);**

114.125 **Introduce a dedicated legal framework or amend the existing labour legislation in order to promote the regulation of paid and quality internships (Portugal);**

114.126 **Continue to promote economic and social development, promote employment and further raise people's living standards (China);**

114.127 **Continue efforts so that workers in the agricultural sector fully enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights (Peru);**

114.128 **Continue consolidating its social policies and human rights, especially in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to increase the standard of living of its people, in particular of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

114.129 **Strengthen policies to guarantee the human right to water in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

114.130 **Focus more on improving the quality of health services, paying special attention to child and maternal mortality (Mongolia);**

114.131 **Introduce further measures to sustain and reinforce progress made in access to the health-care system, especially for disadvantaged people (Viet Nam);**

114.132 **Strengthen health-care services to improve the life expectancy of newborns and reduce the child and maternal mortality rates (Peru);**

114.133 **Introduce a national HIV prevention strategy and work with civil society for its implementation (Australia);**

114.134 **Consider the adoption of a national strategy on HIV/AIDS (Israel);**

114.135 **Accelerate the adoption and budgeting of the national HIV/AIDS strategy 2018–2020 and the national strategy on sexual and reproductive health and rights (Germany);**

114.136 **Increase the budget for the national tuberculosis programme and change the legislation as necessary to treat all tuberculosis patients (Estonia);**

114.137 **Devote more resources to the education system in order to ensure full and equal access to quality education for all (Viet Nam);**

114.138 **Take all necessary measures to ensure accessible, inclusive, high quality education for all children without discrimination of any kind, including for minorities such as Roma and those in a vulnerable position (Finland);**

114.139 **Take further measures to ensure the access of all children to education (Iraq);**

114.140 **Increase the budget allocation for improving the education system and addressing the early school leaving phenomenon (Indonesia);**

114.141 **Continue supporting the training of teachers in the area of human rights education, in particular the rights of the child (Qatar);**

114.142 **Continue developing effective measures for the promotion of human rights education and awareness-raising (Armenia);**

114.143 **Implement and ensure equal access to mandatory gender equality and age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education within the formal education system (Australia);**

114.144 **Introduce education for sexual and reproductive health in the core curriculum for secondary education, including by setting out a concrete timeline of implementation of such a measure (Slovenia);**

114.145 **Take steps to introduce comprehensive and evidence-based sexuality education in the core curriculum for secondary education, as well as to ensure sufficient teacher training on sexuality education (Finland);**

114.146 **Further accelerate its efforts to promote and protect the rights of women (Mongolia);**

114.147 **Establish adequate legislative measures, which guarantee women's property rights after divorce, particularly in the case of unregistered marriages (Sierra Leone);**

114.148 **Take measures to promote the rights of women, in particular by addressing the recent resurgence of discourse containing stereotypes concerning women's rights to reproductive and sexual health (Belgium);**

114.149 **Ensure progress in the implementation of specific measures and follow up on their execution to guarantee the implementation of the women and peace and security agenda (Spain);**

114.150 **Adopt legislation that reflects the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence, and adequately protects and assists victims through specialized services (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

114.151 **Harmonize fully its national legislation with the provisions of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Estonia);**

114.152 **Proceed with the activation of the legislative package elaborated by the National Agency for Equal Opportunities for the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Georgia);**

114.153 **Strengthen the efforts made to combat violence against women by way of information, prevention, protection of victims and punishment of the perpetrators (Iceland);**

114.154 **Step up efforts to protect women against violence, in law and in practice, including through prevention and accountability mechanisms, especially by means of effective emergency measures in favour of victims and their families (Brazil);**

114.155 **Ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

114.156 **Introduce effective policies to address the issue of the large number of abandoned children left behind by parents working abroad (Japan);**

114.157 **Ensure free and quality education for all children, including Roma children, strengthen its efforts to protect the rights of all children and take necessary measures to stop violence and discrimination (Mongolia);**

114.158 **Improve effective implementation of the Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-based Care, with particular focus on prevention of institutionalization of children under the age of 3 (Montenegro);**

114.159 **Implement the Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-based Care and put in place a strong monitoring system (Albania);**

114.160 **Take further steps for the implementation of the 2016 Deinstitutionalization Plan for Children in Residential Care and Ensuring their Transition to Community-Based Care and expedite measures to broaden inclusive education for children with disabilities (Bulgaria);**

114.161 **Intensify efforts to prevent trafficking in children, in particular by training teachers and raising awareness among children through education, and paying special attention to poor communities and migrant children (Norway);**

114.162 **Intensify the work at the legislative level regarding the protection of children from violence and ensure timely identification and prevention of cruel treatment of children (Russian Federation);**

114.163 **Allocate the necessary human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of the national strategy for the promotion and protection of child rights 2014–2020 and of the related operational plan, with a view to reducing poverty, social exclusion and violence against children (Switzerland);**

114.164 **Develop special measures and provide the necessary financial resources to ensure comprehensive protection of street children and provide these children with real possibilities to receive education, medical support, housing and food (Belarus);**

114.165 **Strengthen legislative efforts to end child, early and forced marriage and sexual exploitation of children (Sierra Leone);**

114.166 **Guarantee specialized support services for children who have been victims of abuse and sexual exploitation (Chile);**

114.167 **Continue taking steps to combat child poverty and ensuring the well-being of children (India);**

114.168 **Adopt specific measures to reduce the exposure of children to the risk of poverty (Portugal);**

114.169 **Take the necessary measures to fight the poverty and social exclusion of children (Algeria);**

114.170 **Allocate adequate resources to ensure the effective functioning of the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (Slovakia);**

114.171 **Enhance efforts to protect persons with disabilities by renewing cooperation with expert NGOs and by conducting thorough investigations into allegations of abuse (Norway);**

114.172 **Improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities, in particular by facilitating their access to the labour market and adapting centres and other shelter mechanisms to their needs (Algeria);**

114.173 **Take appropriate measures to ensure the unhindered participation of persons with disabilities in the education system and in the labour market (Austria);**

114.174 **Create favourable conditions to enable national minorities to express and develop their culture and tradition in their own language, and take additional measures in the field of education for various minority groups, including Roma (Afghanistan);**

114.175 **Amend national legislation to ensure full compliance with all obligations and commitments related to the protection and promotion of human rights, including those of national minorities stemming from the ratification of minority rights treaties, including the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Hungary);**

114.176 **Strengthen policies to guarantee the human rights to education and health to children from minorities (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

114.177 **Protect and respect the rights of national and religious minorities by returning their properties and ensure legal certainty in this context (Hungary);**

114.178 **Ensure full implementation of the law on public administration by clarifying the legal uncertainty about the threshold requirement for displaying street names and topographical signs in the minority languages (Hungary);**

114.179 **Guarantee the right to freedom of peaceful assembly of minorities without discrimination (Hungary);**

114.180 **Revise the curricula and the history textbooks to make sure that diversity of cultures and perspectives of minorities are reflected and that stereotypes and prejudices are eliminated (Hungary);**

114.181 **Ensure that school enrolment plans and the numerical threshold for the creation of classes are not used in a discriminatory way, while providing access to technical and vocational education in the minority language (Hungary);**

114.182 **Continue to promote the integration of the Roma community, including by implementing the national strategy launched for the period 2015–2020 (Italy);**

114.183 **Steadily implement its strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020, and strengthen education-related initiatives, such as the promotion of education for Roma children (Japan);**

114.184 **Continue to effectively implement the government strategy for the inclusion of Romanian citizens belonging to the Roma minority 2015–2020 (Maldives);**

114.185 **Increase the resources allocated to the implementation of the national strategy for the inclusion of the Roma minority (Spain);**

114.186 **Make efforts to increase the access of the Roma to education, the labour market and health-care services (Russian Federation);**

114.187 **Take appropriate measures to give full access to education, health care, employment and social inclusion to Roma children (Albania);**

114.188 **Take further steps to guarantee Roma children equal access to inclusive quality education, with the full participation of the Roma population (Iceland);**

114.189 **Implement measures aimed at strengthening the social inclusion of Roma people, including the participation of Roma children in the school system (Sierra Leone);**

114.190 **Provide sufficient resources to implement the strategy for the integration of the Roma (Belarus);**

114.191 **Step up efforts to involve children from the Roma community in education (Belarus);**

114.192 **Continue policies aimed at the inclusion of Roma children in the education and health-care systems (Georgia);**

114.193 **Take specific measures to assist the integration of the Roma population into society, in particular in the areas of education, health, employment and housing (Mexico);**

114.194 **Strengthen legislation to guarantee better attention to the needs of the Roma in the areas of the right to housing and the right to education (Côte d'Ivoire);**

114.195 **Step up efforts to improve the position of Roma people in line with the European Union framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, for example in terms of ensuring access to education, appropriate housing and economic inclusion (Netherlands);**

114.196 **Develop an effective system to follow up the implementation of the National Strategy with clear measurable targets and assigned responsibility to follow up progress; consider introducing obligatory information in schools about the historic treatment of Roma; and develop programmes to counter negative stigma in schools, as well as in different public institutions (Sweden);**

114.197 **Implement the existing legal framework on segregation, and in particular expedite the concrete implementation of the national strategy for Roma inclusion 2015–2020 (Switzerland);**

114.198 **Collect disaggregated ethnicity data with a view to supporting the implementation of the strategy for Roma inclusion 2015–2020 (Brazil);**

114.199 **Continue implementing the recommendations of the universal and regional human rights treaty bodies, in particular with regard to creating favourable conditions to enable national minorities to express and develop their culture, traditions and customs in their own language, and further encourage knowledge of the history, traditions and culture of various minority groups (Ukraine);**

114.200 **Adopt a national strategy to raise awareness among the Romanian population about traditional harmful practices against women and discriminatory gender stereotypes (Uruguay);**

114.201 **Promote the rights of migrant workers and their families among national and global stakeholders with a view to considering ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

114.202 **Strengthen the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, notably those relating to access to housing through specific measures (Senegal);**

114.203 **Adopt additional legislation in order to address practical barriers preventing access to education for asylum-seeking and refugee children (Afghanistan).**

115. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Romania was headed by the Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alexandru Victor Micula, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Csaba Ferenc Asztalos, President, National Council for Combating Discrimination;
- Mr. Daniel Rădulescu, President, National Agency for Roma;
- Mr. Lorin Ovidiu Hagimă, Director, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Ilie Cute, Expert Assimilated to Magistrates, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Răzvan Boştinaru, Expert Assimilated to Magistrates, Ministry of Justice;
- Mr. Doru Florin Cosman, Officer, National Prison Administration;
- Mr. Iulian Paraschiv, Head of Cabinet, National Agency for Roma;
- Ms. Claudia Virenfeldt, Counsellor, Ombudsman's Office;
- Mr. Cătălin Andrei Popescu, Prosecutor, Prosecutor's Office attached to the High Court of Cassation and Justice;
- Ms. Corina Marinescu, Counsellor, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption;
- Mr. Dan Moldovan, Counsellor for European Affairs, National Agency for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men;
- Mr. Cristian Răileanu, Counsellor, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice;
- Ms. Mihaela Bujor, Public Manager, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice;
- Ms. Alexandra Nemeş, Counsellor, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice;
- Mr. Mihai Tomescu, Counsellor of the Minister, National Authority for Persons with Disabilities;
- Ms. Ioana Mihaela Dobre, Counsellor, National Authority for Persons with Disabilities;
- Ms. Viorica Preda, Inspector General, Ministry of National Education;
- Ms. Petronela Stoian, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Adrian Strugariu, Head of Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Ms. Raluca Erdinc, Inspector, Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- Mr. Adam Dinu, Counsellor, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds;
- Ms. Adriana Petraru, Counsellor, Department for Inter-Ethnic Relations;
- Ms. Aniela Bologa, First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Adrian Vieriţu, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;

- Ms. Codruta Vierita, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Mr. Albert Robu, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva;
- Ms. Laura Luca, Intern, Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva.